

# IOWA BIRD LIFE



Vol. 54 No. 2

*June*  
March 1984

Published by the

**IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION**

## CONTENTS

WATER BIRDS IN STORY CO. ....	27-29
SPRING MEETING .....	29-34
BANDING SUMMARY .....	34-36
ROCA WREN .....	37-38
RECORDS COMMITTEE .....	38-40
FIELD REPORTS .....	40-52
GENERAL NOTES .....	52-55
BOOK REVIEWS .....	55-56
BIRDLINE .....	56

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The Iowa Ornithologists' Union was organized at Ames, Iowa, February 28, 1923, for the study and protection of native birds and to promote fraternal relations among Iowa bird students.

The central design of the Union's official seal is the American Goldfinch, designated State Bird of Iowa in 1933.

Publication of the Union: Mimeographed letters, 1923-1928; THE BULLETIN 1929-1930; IOWA BIRD LIFE beginning 1931.

**SUBSCRIPTION RATE:** \$12.00 a year on a calendar year basis, single copies \$3.00. Subscription to the magazine is included in all paid memberships, of which there are six classes as follows: Life Member, \$250.00, payable in four equal installments; Supporting Member, \$15.00 a year; Family Member, \$15.00 a year; Regular Member, \$12.00 a year; Junior Member (under 16 years of age), \$6.00 a year.

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IOWA BIRD LIFE (ISSN 0021-0455) is published quarterly for \$12.00 per year, single copies \$3.00 by Ornithologists' Union, 235 McClelland Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803. Second-class postage paid at Davenport, Iowa. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, 235 McClelland Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803.

# Finding Water Birds in Eastern Story County

27

HANK ZALETEL

715 West St.

Colo, Iowa 50056

It has been 13 years since the last birding guide to Story County was published. (Rod 1971) Since then, one major wetland has been purchased by the county conservation board and several new shorebird areas have been discovered in eastern Story County.

The landscape of Story County was shaped by the Cary drift of the Wisconsin glacier some 13,000 years ago. Eastern Story County, especially, reflects the passage of the glacier. This part of the county was molded by the advance and retreat of the Bemis moraine of the Cary glacier. "Today, the land in the area of this end moraine is characterized by swell and swale topography. Topography of this type, formed by irregular deposition of till by receding glacial ice, consists of alternating rounded or knobby hills and poorly drained depressions." (Anderson 1983)

Five of Iowa's six palustrine-wetland types are present in eastern Story County: 1. Seasonally flooded basins, 2. Basins with waterlogged soil within 2' of the surface, 3. Basins with waterlogged soil in the growing season with up to 6" of water, 4. Basins covered with six inches to three feet of water, 5. Shallow protected lakes (Cooper & Hunt 1982). Type 3 and 4 wetlands have been numbered on Figure 1A. These are the areas where the chances of seeing waterfowl and shorebirds are best. Optimal viewing depends largely on the amount of or lack of precipitation. All potholes are located on private property. Please respect the rights of the owners and ask permission before entering. Most dirt roads are impassable during wet periods.

## Larson Marsh

This 12 acre pothole, located  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Ames and Interstate 35 on 13th street, was purchased by Story County in 1980. The marsh consists of a three acre water body with the remaining land replanted with prairie forbs and grasses. Numerous species of ducks and shorebirds have been observed including Lesser Golden and Black-bellied Plover, Hudsonian Godwit and Wilson's Phalarope. In 1980, three Tundra Swans paid a visit as did a Cattle Egret in the spring of 1983. For the last two summers, Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Savannah, Swamp, Vesper and Grasshopper Sparrows can be found during the summer. LeConte's Sparrows have been found during migration.

## Hickory Grove Park

The beach at the park, while not a productive shorebird area, has yielded rarities; a Piping Plover was present for two days in April of 1982.

## Colo Ponds

Numerous potholes dot the landscape east of Colo providing a welcome habitat for waterfowl and shorebirds. In late March and early April, thousands of Canada and Snow Geese stop at Hendrickson Marsh and the main ponds at Colo. Then, in May, the slopping hills east of Colo are dotted with Lesser Golden Plover while the shallow potholes yield hundreds of shorebirds. In fact, with the exception of the Western Sandpiper, every shorebird on the IOU field checklist has been seen within the last two years in eastern Story County.

Unusual species sighted at Colo ponds in recent years include an ibis (sp) in 1978, an Eared Grebe, Tundra Swan and Cattle Egret in 1983 and a Common Moorhen in the spring of 1984. Unusual shorebirds include Black-bellied Plover, American Avocet and Ruddy Turnstone. Black Terns usually are present during the summer.

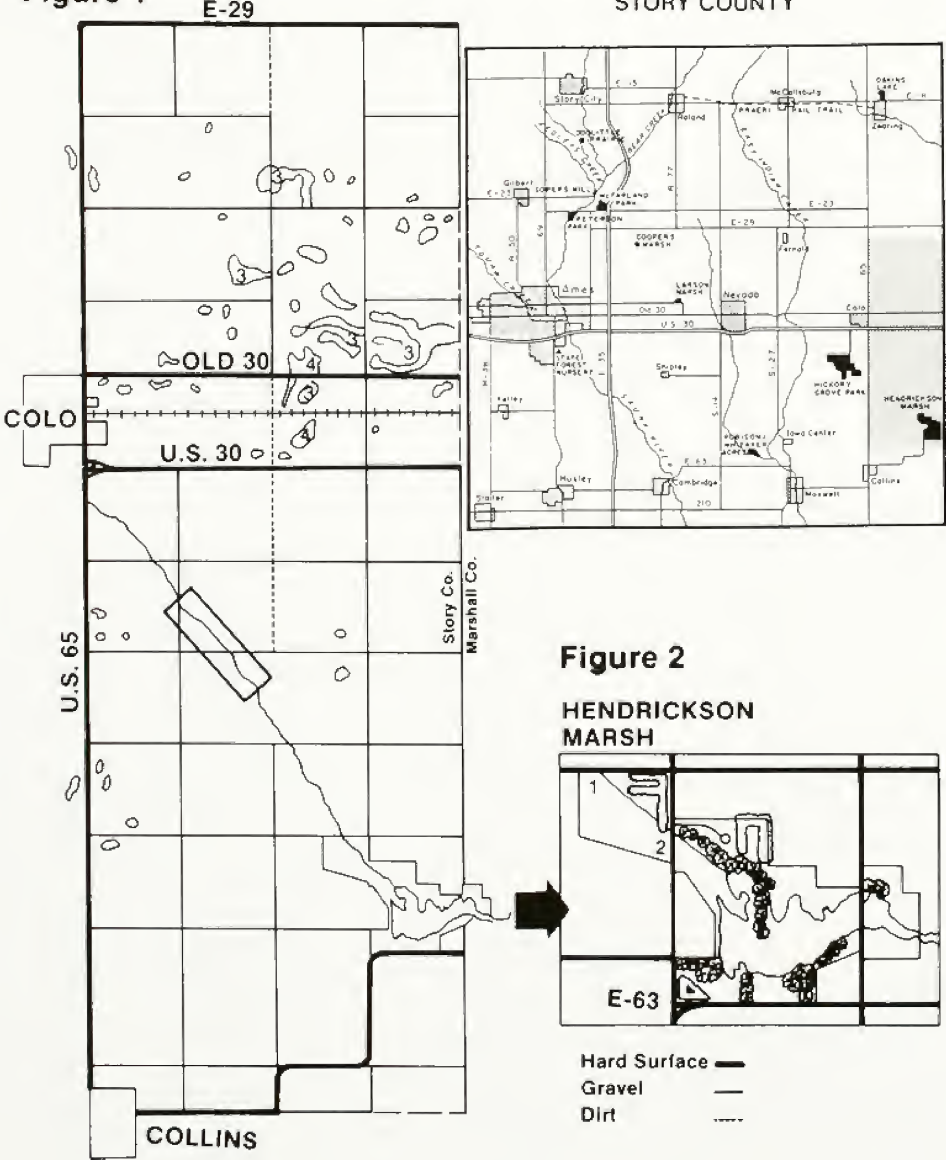


The pasture land (rectangle in figure 1) adjacent to the creek that flows from Colo to Hendrickson Marsh has proven to be the best area to find Upland Sandpipers and Gray Partridge.

**Hendrickson Marsh**

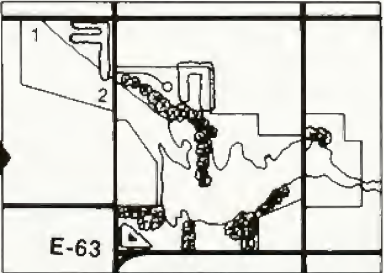
Hendrickson Marsh (figure 2), located in southeast Story County, straddles the county line with Marshall County. Formerly called the old Kimberly Marsh, the land proved too wet to farm, though wild hay grew abundantly at the marsh and was harvested. Purchased by the Iowa Conservation Commission in the mid-1960s, a large earthen dam was constructed on the east end in 1968. This created a water area of approximately 250 acres out of the marsh's 601 total acres.

**Figure 1**



**Figure 2**

**HENDRICKSON MARSH**



The best shorebirding areas have been numbered in figure 2. They are cultivated fields within the wildlife management area that have been prone to flooding. A Whimbrel was found here in the spring of 1983 and in the marsh proper in 1984.

During the winter a Loggerhead Shrike can sometimes be found along the hedgerows in the northwest corner. The dead snags that extend along the side of and into the marsh have yielded Bald Eagles and Osprey during March and April. Black-crowned Night-Herons can be found during April and May in the trees along the creek before it enters the marsh proper. American White Pelicans usually cluster around the snags that extend into the marsh during the last two weeks of April. Double-crested Cormorants roost in the same snags from late April to early June. Then, after the cormorants have left, up to 20 Great Blue Herons may spend the rest of the summer here. Along the northern boundary of the marsh, a lane leads to an abandoned farm site and pond. This pond, when approached quietly, has yielded herons and rails. Rails have also been located along the northeast shoreline near the parking lot. A Black Rail was flushed here two years ago.

Great Horned Owls can be found in the wooded areas of the marsh. In recent years, they have roosted in the wooded tract in the southwest corner.

Spring and summer are the best times to bird the marsh. During the fall, the area is used extensively by hunters. A brochure on the marsh can be obtained by contacting the Iowa Conservation Commission, Wallace State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319.

#### Literature Cited

1. James P. Rod, "Birding Areas of Iowa Ames — Story County — Ledges State Park," *Iowa Bird Life* 41, no. 2 (June 1971) p. 43-47.
2. Wayne I. Anderson, *Geology of Iowa*, (Ames, Iowa: Iowa State University Press, 1983) p. 226.
3. Tom C. Cooper and Nyla Sherburne Hunt, eds., *Iowa's Natural Heritage*, (Des Moines: Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation, 1982) p. 217-218.
4. *Visitor's Guide to Hendrickson Marsh Wildlife Management Area*, (Des Moines: Iowa Conservation Commission, 1984)

## Iowa Ornithologists' Union Meeting — Spring 1984

FRANCIS MOORE  
336 Fairfield St.  
WATERLOO, IA.

The annual spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union was held near Indianola, Iowa on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, May 4, 5 and 6, 1984. The Rolling Hills Audubon Society was our host for the duration and did an excellent job of coordinating and managing the festivities.

Once again the annual spring meeting of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union started off with a social get-together. This time at the home of Bill Overland in Indianola. For those of you who missed this important part of our I.O.U. meeting make sure you make the effort to be there at the next meeting, if there is one scheduled. It was a real good time and it seemed as though everyone got to talk about birding in a relaxed atmosphere. Most of the I.O.U. weekend took place at Camp Wesley Woods, south of Indianola.

The Saturday morning field trips were not the greatest because of the persis-



tent cool weather which delayed the spring northward movement of migrants until after our I.O.U. weekend. A few good birds were seen just to keep things interesting. All field trips left from the Methaqua Lodge parking lot. There were also bird banding demonstrations nearly all weekend for those who did not go on, or got back early from, the field trips.

After lunch on Saturday, before the business meeting, we all enjoyed three informative and interesting presentations:

The first presentation on the "Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas" was given by Mike Newlon with help from Dave Newhouse. Mike gave us a look at what the Breeding Bird Atlas is and what needs to be done in the next five years, starting January 1, 1985. The second presentation; "Finding Summer Warblers" by Darwin Koenig gave us insights as to how he goes about finding summer warblers in Iowa. One of his well kept secrets turned out to be spending lots of time in the right type of habitat. Darwin showed slides of the wood warblers that we might expect to see and what different Iowa terrain and habitat types should be searched. "Finding Summer Water Birds" was our third presentation by Jim Dinsmore. He also showed slides of the many bird species that we might expect to see in Iowa during the summer months. His secret was the same as Darwins on finding these water birds; spend lots of time in the right types of habitat. Habitat types and terrain were also discussed.

The business meeting was then brought to order by President Mike Newlon following these very good presentations. Carol Newlon made a motion that the minutes of the last business meeting be approved as published in Vol. 53, No. 2 of *Iowa Bird Life*. The motion was seconded by Tanya Bray. The motion carried. Hank Zaletel presented the treasurer's report which showed a balance in the treasury of \$6292.71 and a balance of \$395.63 in the segregated account for the Iowa Birdline as of April 18, 1984. Carol Newlon moved that the treasurers report be accepted as read by Hank. Barb Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Carl Bendorf reported that the I.O.U. had received an invitation to hold the fall 1984 meeting at Big Sand Mound from Pete Petersen. Big Sand Mound is near Muscatine. The meeting is to be held the weekend of September 8 and 9. He also reported that we had received an invitation to hold the Spring 1985 meeting at Marshalltown during the weekend of May 4 and 5 by our members in the Marshalltown area. President Newlon then asked for volunteers to be on the nominating committee for selecting officer nominees for next May.

Barb Wilson made a motion that the proposed change to Article 6 of the I.O.U. Articles of Incorporation be approved as printed and distributed to the membership as an insert to Vol. 54, No. 1 of *Iowa Bird Life*. Ross Silcock seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Carol Newlon made a motion that the proposed changes to the I.O.U. Constitution be considered as separate items and that they be voted on separately. Carl Bendorf seconded the motion. Tom Kent brought up several objections to the current I.O.U. Constitution, and urged everyone present to vote against the motion on the floor and instead suggested that a committee be formed to rewrite the I.O.U. Constitution. Pete Petersen made comments to the objections expressed by Tom and recommended that everyone vote for the motion as stated. Carl Bendorf made comments on the basis of our constitution. Others made comments on different points about our constitution, the proposed changes to the constitution and the current motion on the floor. The motion failed on a show of hands, 13 votes for the motion, 20 votes against.

Dave Newhouse made a motion that the proposed changes to the I.O.U. Constitution be divided into two groups: Group A containing the proposed changes to Article I, Section 7; Article II, Section 2; Article III, Section 2 and Article IV, Sec-

# SPRING MEETING

31

## I.O.U. FINANCIAL STATEMENT

April 18, 1984

Balance on hand April 7, 1983 ..... \$ 4,666.17

### Receipts:

Memberships .....	
Checklists .....	73.05
Issues of Iowa Bird Life .....	94.35
Patch .....	47.00
Decal .....	17.30
Birding Areas of Iowa .....	371.52
Annotated List .....	12.20
Fall Meeting Registration .....	19.25
Fall Meeting Balance .....	119.23
Sale of Mailing List to Iowa State Univ. ....	30.84
Reporting Observations .....	2.00
List of Iowa Birds 1982 .....	2.00
Interest .....	205.49
	<u>6,834.33</u>
	6,834.33

6,834.33

\$11,500.50

### Disbursements:

Monticello Express .....	4,346.71
Editor:	
Fee .....	100.00
Phone .....	15.80
Postage .....	14.10
Treasurer:	
Postage .....	60.10
Envelopes .....	335.09
Field Reports and Checklist printing .....	135.60
Printing Fall Convention Flyer .....	8.00
Fall Meeting Registration .....	19.25
Stationery .....	14.51
Postage for Iowa Bird Life .....	150.00
Six Month Certificate of Deposit .....	2,500.00
	<u>7,699.16</u>
	7,699.16

7,699.16

3,801.34

Balance on hand April 6, 1984 ..... 3,801.34

Six Month Short Term CD from Checking — March 12, 1984 ..... 2,500.00

Endowment and Scholarship Fund — April 14, 1983 ..... 5,902.33

    Interest ..... 390.38

    Balance — March 12, 1984 ..... 6,292.71

Certificate of Deposit — 3 years — 10.7% — March 12, 1984 ..... 5,750.00

    Savings Reserve ..... 542.71

\$ 6,292.71

## IOWA BIRDLINE — APRIL 18, 1984

### Receipts:

Balance .....	\$601.52
Interest .....	<u>28.47</u>
	\$629.99

\$629.99

### Disbursements:

Monthly charge .....	234.36
	<u>234.36</u>
Balance .....	\$395.63

\$395.63

tion 2; Group B to contain Article IV, Section 5 and Article VI. Ed Crocker seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Barb Wilson made a motion that we approve the proposals to the I.O.U. Constitution as stated in Group A. Ross Silcock seconded the motion. Tom Kent proposed an amendment to the motion that the class of Junior membership be abolished.



The amendment died for lack of a second. Discussion followed. Mary Lou Petersen moved the question to end debate. The motion carried.

Pete Petersen made a motion that the Group B proposed changes to the I.O.U. Constitution be subdivided and voted on separately into Article IV, Section 5 and Article VI. Barb Wilson seconded the motion. Barb Wilson made a motion that the proposed Article VI be reworded to say Article VI, Section 2. Mary Lou Petersen seconded the motion. The motion carried. Tom Kent proposed an amendment to the reworded motion to add the words", consisting of past officers if possible, be between "committee of three members" and "appointed by the President at the fall meeting." Beth Proescholdt seconded the amendment. Pete Petersen accepted the amendment to the motion. The motion, as reworded and amended, carried on a show of hands, 24 votes for the motion as reworded and amended, 9 votes against.

Tom Kent made a motion that the proposed changes to Article IV, Section 5 of the I.O.U. Constitution and subdivided from Group B be tabled at this time. Barb Wilson seconded the motion. The motion carried on a show of hands, 24 votes for the motion, 9 votes against.

Pete Petersen raised the question as to what the status of the proposed I.O.U. newsletter was. A short discussion followed. Ross Silcock made a motion that the President, by the powers vested in the position by the Constitution, appoint a group of people to publish the newsletter. Carl Bendorf seconded the motion. The motion failed on a show of hands, 6 votes for the motion, 27 votes against.

Dave Newhouse made a motion that the President appoint a committee to draw up a new constitution and bylaws for review and discussion of the Executive Council, and approval by the membership of the I.O.U. Carl Bendorf seconded the motion. Tom Kent proposed an amendment to delete the word "President" and replace it with "Executive Council at a special meeting". Carl Bendorf seconded the motion. Dave Newhouse accepted the amendment. Carl Bendorf proposed an amendment to add the words "and that the existing and annotated proposed new Constitution and bylaws be presented to the membership at least 30 days before the annual meeting." to the end of the amended motion on the floor. Ross Silcock seconded the amendment. Dave Newhouse accepted the amendment to the amended motion. Ed Crocker called for the question. The amended motion carried.

Carl Bendorf brought the following resolutions and made a motion that they be approved:

1. Be it resolved that the Iowa Ornithologists' Union hereby commends I.O.U. members Jim Dinsmore, Tom Kent, Darwin Koenig, Pete Petersen and Dean Roosa on their work as co-authors of "Iowa Birds." The I.O.U. sincerely appreciates their efforts and that they have made this definitive work a valuable resource for many years to come. Furthermore, the I.O.U. recognizes and commends the contribution of member Jim Landenberger as the contributing artist.

2. Be it resolved, as endorsed by the Executive Council, that the Iowa Ornithologists' Union extends its sincere appreciation to Tom Kent for his service to the Union as Editor of the Field Reports section of *Iowa Bird Life*. The I.O.U. further commends Tom for his efforts as organizer and secretary of the I.O.U. Records Committee. Dave Newhouse seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Darwin Koenig made a motion that the Iowa Ornithologists' Union hold its annual meeting for the years 1985 through 1989 in the month of June to help in the taking of the Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas. Carl Bendorf seconded the motion. After some discussion Darwin withdrew the motion. President Newlon adjourned the meeting to Sunday afternoon.

The banquet was held at the Methaqua Lodge at Camp Wesley Woods. The buffet meal was very good and those present received an introduction to a new way of



being served at a buffet meal. If you are not familiar with being a "hopper" then ask those who ended up being their tables "hopper" server. A different kind of experience.

Sunday morning field trips again assembled and departed from the Methaqua Lodge parking lot. Birds proved to be scarce as people began returning to Methaqua Lodge for the noon lunch. Jim Sinclair came through with an interesting and enjoyable gourmet box lunch. Mine was very good. The business meeting was then called back to order by President Newlon. Election of officers then took place. The slate of officers for the coming year was presented by the nominating committee. John Osness made a motion that the secretary cast an unanimous ballot as presented by the nominating committee; the slate of officers, being: Mike Newlon, President; Carl Bendorf, Vice-President; Francis Moore, Secretary; Hank Zaletel, Treasurer; Pete Petersen, Editor; Mrs. Beryl Layton, Librarian; Ray Cummins, Beth Proscholdt and Marlys Huff, Executive Council.

The resolutions committee then gave their report: Be it resolved that:

1. We express our appreciation to Jim Sinclair and the local organizers of the Rolling Hills Audubon Society, to
2. The Camp Wesley Woods staff, especially Dave and Sharon Schar.
3. To Dr. Al Farris, our speaker Saturday evening.
4. To Mike Newlon, Darwin Koenig and Jim Dinsmore for their fine presentations.
5. To the Laytons for their banding display.
6. To Bill Overton for opening his home to us Friday night and
7. To Jim Landenberger for the donation of the print to be raffled,
8. To the field trip guides and everyone who provided cars.

Be it further resolved by the members of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union to thank Mary Lou Petersen for her nine years of service as secretary of the organization. By the resolutions committee: Beth Proscholdt, Dan Perkins and Tom Staudt. Tom Staudt made a motion to accept the resolutions committee report. Carl Bendorf seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Pete Petersen led the compilation of the bird list with 128 species being seen on Sunday. Some of the more interesting birds that were sighted were: Sandhill Crane, Peregrine Falcon, Common Barn-Owl and Northern Mockingbird. If anyone wants a list of the birds as recorded send your request to the Secretary of the I.O.U., a copy will be forwarded to you. The meeting was then adjourned.

#### Registered Attendance — 119

ACKWORTH: Mick Kreidler.

AMES: Jim and Steve Dinsmore, David and Jeanne Edwards, Dave and Mary Newhouse, and Michael Nolan.

BOONEVILLE: Eugene and Eloise Armstrong.

CARROLL: Mary Kuhlman.

CEDAR RAPIDS: Robert and Karen Bradley and James Landenberger.

CENTERVILLE: Dorothy Cornet, Ray Cummins, W.M. and Marjorie Heusinkveld and Mary Montgomery.

COLO: Hank Zaletel.

DAVENPORT: Ann Barker, Corey Blevins, Mary Lou and Pete Petersen.

DES MOINES: Ruth Binsfeld, Ruth Buckles, Nancy Davidson, Ester Dungan, Jim Gritton, Gladys Haskell, John and Maggie Hoogerheide, Robert Howe, Barbara Miller, Dick and Pauly Mooney.

DUBUQUE: Frieda and George Crossley.

ELKHART: Dean, Mike and Diane Mosman.

FORT DODGE: Mina Landes.

HASTINGS: Barbara Wilson.

INDIANOLA: Wyman Borts, Jean Ann Foley, Roy and Jane Godwin, Laura Harris, Ann Johnson, Rick and Beth McGeough, Tim Nicol-Thomas, Bill Overland, Doug Reeves, Paul Regnier, Jim and Carol Sinclair, Russell and Robin Vanderhoef and David Youngblut.

INWOOD: Jim Matthews.

IOWA CITY: Carl and Linda Bendorf, Tom and Ann Kent, Mike and Carol Newlon, Thomas Staudt and Carol Thompson.

JAMISON: Rick Trieff.

KEOKUK: Bob Cecil

LAKE MILLS: Sybil Sand.

LAMONI: Genevieve DeLong.

LISCOMB: Beth and Mark Proescholdt.

MARSHALLTOWN: Marlys Huff, James and Pauline Mairs.

MONTEZUMA: Darwin Koenig.

OSCEOLA: Beth Brown.

OSKALOOSA: Keith and Irene Layton.

PLEASANTVILLE: Gladys Black and Sandra Strong.

SEYMORE: Dick and Charlotte Scott.

SHENANDOAH: Ruth Phipps and Mary Spears.

SIOUX CITY: Wayne and Lorraine Livermore, Robert and Phyllis Nickolson and Jerry Probst.

STATE CENTER: Jim and Dorothy Maish.

STORM LAKE: Edwin and Virginia Crocker.

TABOR: Ross Silcock.

UNION: Phyllis Harris and Ramona Sommerlot.

WATERLOO: Harvey and Anna Mae Kirchgatter, Lowell and Eleanor Miller, Francis L. Moore, John and Lois Osness and Dan Perkins.

WAUKEE: Mark Dixon.

WINTERSET: Jenny Sorenson.

ROCK ISLAND, ILL.: Larry Linder.

OMAHA, NEB.: Tanya Bray, Loren and Babs Padelford.

CITY NOT RECORDED: Shawn Asbaugh, Joe Brashears, Cindy Bratzel, Jean Frost, and Bill Huser.

## Iowa Bird Banding Summary for 1983

IRENE LAYTON

Box 124

Oskaloosa, IA. 52577

Another exciting year has ended for Iowa banders. This year was not as productive as in years past. One big reason is because our editor is banding more in Illinois than he is in Iowa. We miss those good catches you reported year after year, Pete!

The Ayres lead with a total of 3,715 bird. They were excited by banding a Brewsters Warbler. We believe this to be an Iowa first for this hybrid. The Laytons caught their first Cooper's Hawk, four of them in fact. Did you every try to take one out of the net without gloves? I did and I tore a big hole in a brand new net. The Diggs captured and banded their first Peregrine Falcon. We believe this may be one more Iowa first! Our records are not complete, corrections appreciated.

We welcome Don and Elaine Johnson of Ottumwa as a new banding team. Don had been banding as a subpermittee for the Ayres. We lost a bander this year. The Laubachs of Des Moines moved to Massachusetts in June. We send our condolences to Mrs. W. C. DeLong, in the passing of her husband, Wallace, November



7th, 1983.

Darwin Mosman wrote that he banded a nestling Eastern Bluebird May 21, 1979, and it was captured July 18, 1982, on a nest in Dauphin, Manitoba, 1,000 miles from where it fledged. The Laytons banded an American Goldfinch, 5 miles east of Cedar Rapids on May 2, 1983, and it was captured June 27, 1983, at Sinclair, Manitoba, Canada. We thought they stayed in Iowa! Do any other banders have any good captures they would like to share?

Looking back over the banding summaries for the past 20 years, we note that a lot of former banders are no longer banding. Our species and bird totals are down. I see by the 1963 Summary (before our banding days), all the banders who could make it met at Muskrat Slough, near Olin, for shorebird banding. I think that would be lots of fun. Why couin't we do that again?

Following is a list of Iowa banders, and the number of species and individuals banded in Iowa, in 1983.

Name	Species	Birds
Mr. & Mrs. Charles Ayres, Ottumwa	93	3,715
Dick Bierman, Cherokee	24	511
Gene & Marilyn Burns, Jamaica	32	400
Mrs. Genevieve DeLong, Lamoni	59	402
Mr. & Mrs. Fritz Hugh Diggs, Hamburg	100	1,935
Paul & Mary Felsing, Knoxville	34	643
Iowa Conservation Commission, Des Moines	25	4,038
Don & Elaine Johnson, Ottumwa	57	534
Chris & Rene Laubach, Des Moines	10	19
Keith & Irene Layton, Oskaloosa	102	3,145
Darwin Mosman, Ankeny	9	9 3,145
Darwin Mosman, Oskaloosa	102	3,145
Darwin Mosman, Ankeny	9	396
Dave Newhouse, Boone	10	98
Peter C. Petersen, Davenport	10	23
Marie Spears, Shenandoah	10	88
Totals	148	15,947

#### 1983 Banding totals

Canada Goose	1,431	Whip-poor-will	2
Wood Duck	2,050	Chimney Swift	1
Green-winged Teal	1	Ruby-throated Hummingbird	14
Mallard	450	Belted Kingfisher	1
Blue-winged Teal	35	Red-headed Woodpecker	40
N. Shoveler	2	Red-bellied Woodpecker	22
Sharp-shinned Hawk	12	Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	5
Cooper's Hawk	4	Downy Woodpecker	145
Red-tailed Hawk	1	Hairy Woodpecker	25
Am. Kestrel	134	N. Flicker	55
Peregrine Falcon	1	Olive-sided Flycatcher	2
Killdeer	4	Eastern Wood-Pewee	52
Solitary Sandpiper	1	Yellow-billed Flycatcher	54
Am. Woodcock	2	Acadian Flycatcher	34
Mourning Dove	16	Trayl's Flycatcher	45
Black-billed Cuckoo	7	Least Flycatcher	99
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	32	Eastern Phoebe	18
Common Barn-Owl	72	Great Crested Flycatcher	22
Eastern Screech-Owl	8	Eastern Kingbird	11
Common Nighthawk	8		

Purple Martin	267	Blackpoll Warbler	7
Tree Swallow	3	Black-and-white Warbler	34
Bank Swallow	50	Am. Redstart	32
Cliff Swallow	100	Prothonotary Warbler	4
Barn Swallow	24	Worm-eating Warbler	2
Blue Jay	176	Ovenbird	176
Black-capped Chickadee	254	Northern Waterthrush	27
Tufted Titmouse	53	Louisiana Waterthrush	2
Red-breasted Nuthatch	2	Kentucky Warbler	17
White-breasted Nuthatch	67	Connecticut Warbler	8
Brown Creeper	54	Mourning Warbler	65
Carolina Wren	1	Common Yellowthroat	150
House Wren	90	Hooded Warbler	2
Winter Wren	6	Wilson's Warbler	34
Golden-crowned Kinglet	60	Canada Warbler	27
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	124	Yellow-breasted Chat	12
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	3	N. Cardinal	248
Eastern Bluebird	264	Rose-breasted Grosbeak	152
Veery	17	Indigo Bunting	161
Gray-cheeked Thrush	68	Dickcissel	24
Swainson's Thrush	186	Rufous-sided Towhee	2
Hermit Thrush	29	Am. Tree Sparrow	72
Wood Thrush	23	Chipping Sparrow	148
Am. Robin	391	Clay-colored Sparrow	5
Gray Catbird	342	Field Sparrow	86
N. Mockingbird	2	Vesper Sparrow	3
Brown Thrasher	115	Lark Sparrow	3
Cedar Waxwing	55	Savannah Sparrow	9
Loggerhead Shrike	4	Grasshopper Sparrow	7
European Starling	8	Henslow's Sparrow	1
White-eyed Vireo	17	Le Conte's Sparrow	1
Bell's Vireo	2	Fox Sparrow	21
Solitary Vireo	24	Song Sparrow	31
Yellow-throated Vireo	6	Lincoln's Sparrow	47
Warbling Vireo	9	Swamp Sparrow	17
Philadelphia Vireo	21	White-throated Sparrow	149
Red-eyed Vireo	92	White-crowned Sparrow	20
Blue-winged Warbler	33	Harris' Sparrow	59
Golden-winged Warbler	16	Dark-eyed Junco	1,153
Tennessee Warbler	167	Red-winged Blackbird	83
Orange-crowned Warbler	101	Eastern Meadowlark	2
Nashville Warbler	130	Western Meadowlark	4
Northern Parula	3	Rusty Blackbird	6
Yellow Warbler	13	Common Grackle	90
Chestnut-sided Warbler	24	Brown-headed Cowbird	51
Magnolia Warbler	68	Orchard Oriole	20
Cape May Warbler	2	Northern Oriole	128
Black-throated Blue Warbler	1	Purple Finch	2,654
Yellow-rumped Warbler	185	Pine Siskin	5
Black-throated Green Warbler	13	Am. Goldfinch	1,167
Blackburnian Warbler	1	Evening Grosbeak	1
Palm Warbler	6	House Sparrow	2
Bay-breasted Warbler	11	Total	15,947



## Rock Wren in Woodbury County

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At 9 AM on May 21, 1984 we left the northeast entrance of Stone Park and traveled north on Talbot Road for 0.6 miles where we encountered a Rock Wren in a 15 foot road cut through the top of a loess hill. The bird was first seen in bright sunlight on the west bank of the cut; after about a minute it flew to the shaded east bank; after about five minutes it flew to the top of a fence post silhouetted against the sky. It then flew off over a brome pasture into a small ravine, and we could not find it again.

When the bird was first seen we both instantaneously exclaimed "Rock Wren." During the next seven minutes we attempted to delineate the features of the bird and to photograph it. A composite of our individually prepared descriptions is as follows: a bird considerably larger and longer than a House Wren with uncocked tail; long bill slightly decurved at tip; light gray underparts with medium gray-brown upperparts; faint white eyestripe; lightly flecked wing coverts and fine dark barring on flight feathers; long straight tail; buffy brown corners to tail separated from proximal tail by thin black band (seen when it flew); buff-washed lower flanks; dark legs and bill. We did not discern streaking on the breast. At all times the bird displayed a vertical bobbing action. Just before it left, the bird uttered three or four two-syllable call notes.

The size, long bill and tail, faint eye-stripe, bobbing behavior, and call note are all characteristic of Rock Wren. We did not hear the song, but the "tick-ear" call note is considered distinctive.

In the 1890s and up to 1910 there were several reports of Rock Wrens in the loess hills of the Sioux City area with evidence of nesting (Anderson 1907, Bennett 1925). Since 1910 there have been only two Iowa reports of this species: 3 birds near a gravel pit 3 miles east of Hornick, Woodbury County, on August 10, 1941 (Laffoon 1942) and a singing male near an abandoned shale pit 4 miles north of Sioux City in Plymouth County on June 16, 1958 (Youngworth 1958).

The range of the Rock Wren extends eastward to western Kansas, Nebraska, and South Dakota; few vagrants are reported east of this range.

Iowa records have been clustered near Sioux City in the loess hills. Perhaps the habitat there simulates their normal dry rocky habitat and attracts vagrant birds. We examined the gravel pit near Hornick and it still looks like reasonable habitat for Rock Wrens. We did not locate the site where Youngworth found a bird in 1958, but Highway 12 north of Stone Park in Plymouth County borders some rocky outcroppings in the loess hills. Perhaps dry cuts are more important than rock, as we saw no rocky areas in the immediate vicinity of the current sighting.

Although our trip to northwest Iowa was specifically undertaken to look for vagrants and the possibility of Rock Wren was discussed, we had no realistic expectation of finding one. We did look at a few quarries, but when we encountered the bird in the road cut it was a complete surprise. Perhaps the prophetic statement in *Iowa Birds* (1984) should be taken seriously: "A systematic search of appropriate habitat such as quarries and rock outcroppings between Apr and Oct might produce more records of this species."

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Rock Wren in grass of loess cut and silhouetted on post.  
NW Woodbury County, May 21, 1984. Photo by T. H. Kent.

### Report of I.O.U. Records Committee for 1983

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The Records Committee reviewed 38 records of birds seen in 1983 and 2 old records; 7 records underwent rereview. The 1983 records are reviewed below. Neither old record was accepted.

The only other significant business was the recommendation of W. Ross Silcock to a second term on the committee and the appointment was made by President Newlon. The current members of the committee and expiration dates for their terms are as follows: James J. Dinsmore (1985), Darwin Koenig (1986), Joseph P. Schaufenbuel (1987), Barbara L. Wilson (1988), Peter C. Petersen (1989), W. Ross Silcock (1990), and Thomas H. Kent, Secretary (elected annually by the appointed members).

#### Records Accepted by the Committee

- Western Grebe:** 5 May 1983, Cone M. (IBL 53:48). An excellent description of a light phase (Clark's) grebe was reviewed because this subspecies is unusual in Iowa.
- Ibis species:** 27 Sep 1983, Otter Creek M. (IBL 53:98). The features were suggestive of Glossy Ibis, but the observers and the committee took a conservative view toward a species that is nearly impossible to identify in the fall and that has yet to be conclusively identified in Iowa.
- Brant:** 18 Nov 1983, north of Riverton A. (IBL 53:98). The bird was shot and photographed (specimen yet to be examined by the Records Committee) for a second definite state record.
- Black Scoter:** 11 Nov 1983, Colfax (IBL 53:98). This ninth accepted record for Iowa was a bonus for eastern Iowans returning from seeing the Sabine's Gull.
- Ferruginous Hawk:** 26 Oct 1983, east of Shenandoah (IBL 53:99). A bird at close range, seen by an experienced observer familiar with this species, exhibited diagnostic field marks and was seen at an expected time and location.
- Prairie Falcon:** 28 Dec 1983, Dallas Co. (IBL 54:17). The record was reviewed because of the easterly location of this species, a species that has been seen more frequently in Iowa in the last few years.
- Purple Gallinule:** 17 May 1983, South Amana Pond (Haldy, IBL 53:58). This extensively studied and photographed bird was added to many observers' state lists.
- Whimbrel:** 4 May 1983, Hendrickson M. (IBL 53:50) and 24 May 1983, Coralville Res. (Bendorf, IBL 53:57-58). These 13th and 14th state records were well-documented by many observers.



- Wilson's Phalarope:** 13 Mar 1983, Cone M. (IBL 53:51). The key field marks of this early, winter-plumaged bird, seen in poor light, were convincing of its identity and provide a record early date.
- Sabine's Gull:** 10 Nov 1983, Saylorville Res. (Kent, IBL 53:105-106). Iowa's fourth record, the first modern one, was a juvenile bird found by an I.O.U. member and subsequently seen by a multitude of observers and photographed.
- Vermilion Flycatcher:** 6 May 1983, Sioux Center (Van Dyk, IBL 53:58-59). The first of two new state birds for Iowa in 1983 was well-documented and photographed by northwest Iowa observers.
- Smith's Longspur:** 9 Mar 1983, south of Nichols; 12 Mar 1983, near Hills; 13 Mar 1983, Doolittle Prairie; 18 Mar 1983, north of Red Oak; 20 Mar 1983, west of Conesville; 17 Apr 1983, east of Larson M. (all IBL 53:55). Six sightings were judged acceptable for this species, which has now been found for the last four years in many locations, suggesting that it has been overlooked in the past.
- Chestnut-collared Longspur:** 12 Mar 1983, east of Hills (IBL 53:55). The detailed description provided the second acceptable state record. This species may occur more frequently than previously supposed.
- Great-tailed Grackle:** 19 May 1983, north of Glenwood (IBL 53:55) and 1 Jul 1983, Riverton A. (Silcock, IBL 106-107). A spring sighting in Mills Co. followed by a nesting in Fremont Co. provided the first two state records for this species, a species that is expanding its range from the southwest toward Iowa and was expected to make an appearance in southwest Iowa.
- House Finch:** 15 Apr 1983, Liscomb (IBL 53:55); 1 May 1983, Davenport (IBL 53:55); 17 Jun 1983, Davenport (IBL 53:76). Two sight records and one photographic record (the latter) documented the second consecutive year of occurrence of this species, a species that is moving toward Iowa from the east.

#### Records Not Accepted By The Committee

- Northern Gannet:** The absence of precedent for vagrancy of this species in summer or west of Lake Michigan, along with the relatively sparse details provided, make the record unlikely.
- Mississippi Kite:** The description, behavior, and date all suggested a male Northern Harrier.
- Whooping Crane:** The details seen, made without aid of optical equipment, suggested a juvenile Whooping Crane. However, extralimital records of this species are frequently received by the Regional Editor for American Birds, most of which must be erroneous. Further, only three young birds were raised in the previous season. Therefore, sufficient doubt was raised for acceptance of this record.
- Marbled Godwit:** The review of a record of this regular species was prompted by the large number of birds reported (46). The evidence presented was insufficient to establish that most of the birds were not Hudsonian Godwits. Most Marbled Godwits occur singly or in pairs with peak migration in late April.
- Laughing Gull:** This bird had all the features of a first summer Franklin's Gull. Such birds lack the white bar in the primaries typical of adults and may possess a fairly complete black hood, thus being difficult to distinguish from an adult Laughing Gull.
- Black-legged Kittiwake:** The combination of features presented fit a first-year Ring-billed Gull rather than a Kittiwake.
- Eastern Wood-Pewee:** The features seen on this silent bird were judged insufficient to establish a record early date.
- Common Raven:** 17 Dec 1983, Dubuque (Silcock, IBL 54:3-15). The bird was not seen in flight and did not call, which, along with the difficulty in judging size, raised sufficient doubt about the identification of this rare vagrant in Iowa. Five of 6 dated Iowa records are from October and 6 of 7 records are from the north central edge of the state.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** The field marks described did not completely rule out Hermit Thrush, and, therefore, were insufficient to establish a

second earliest date for a species usually not encountered until May.

**Black-headed Grosbeak:** As with previous reports of apparent females with some Black-headed Grosbeak features, the committee could not decide, based on the evidence presented, whether the two sightings reported were hybrids or immature male Rose-breasted Grosbeaks. More of these birds are going to be seen, so observers are advised to be familiar with the features that help differentiate Black-headed and Rose-breasted female grosbeaks as described by Peterjohn (IBL 53:22-23).

**Smith's Longspur:** Two records of the species, including one previously reported (27 Apr 1983, east of Hills, IBL 53:55), were not accepted due to limited views of the birds involved. A third report was an exemplary documentation, including a photograph, of a difficult-to-identify bird beneath a feeder in winter. After repeated review and consultation with outside experts, it was concluded that the bird was not a Smith's Longspur, but probably a Vesper Sparrow--itself a winter bird worthy of documentation. Winter Vesper Sparrows, especially juveniles, may appear buffy, resulting in possible confusion with Smith's Longspur. The bird in question had a distinct eye-ring, wing bars rather than a shoulder patch, central breast streaking, and did not behave like a Smith's Longspur (an easily frightened bird of the fields). It is worth noting that excellent documentations and photographs can provide surprise identifications, such as occurred with Iowa's first Mew Gull last year--a bird that was misidentified by the documentors as a Laughing Gull.

#### FIELD REPORTS SPRING 1984

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#### WEATHER AND HABITAT CONDITIONS (JPSa)

Spring 1984 continued the year-long pattern of extreme, record-breaking weather phenomena. March produced the most snow--nearly twice the normal expectancy--in almost a quarter century and averaged 5 degrees colder than normal. Blowing snow and glaze over the state, frequent snow cover, and low temperatures (-15 F. at Rock Rapids and Cresco on the 9th) combined with slow evaporation produced an abundance of soil moisture which created frequently muddy conditions, high stream flows, and much standing water.

Cold, cloudy, and windy, April gave Iowans a new meaning for the word "wet." The average 5.76 inches precipitation was the highest in 112 years! A number of western communities received record precipitation amounts for the month: Red Oak with 8.66, Sidney with 8.9, Guthrie Center with 8.72, Sac City with 9.50, and Storm Lake with 8.49 inches. Eastern Iowa received more normal average precipitation, but Independence recorded 2.77 and Vinton 3.84 inches on the 30th. Additional April highlights included the latest substantial snow since 1956 (on the 29th), tornadoes on the 26th, wind speed average of 15 mph, severe storms with hail, damaging winds, and heavy rains across the state on the 26th and 27th. Mud, standing water, and high water in various rivers and streams with some flooding was the rule during April, and these conditions continued long into May, which was wetter than normal and averaged 3.5 F. colder than normal. Only the latter days of the month saw warmer temperatures and some cessation from the wet, cold spring of 1984.

#### GENERAL TRENDS

Many waterfowl passed through in February producing an unspectacular March (except for rarities). Gulls also moved through early and were more dispersed than usual. The shorebird migration was spread out in time and



location, perhaps due to the abundance of water. The Missouri and Big Sioux river valleys were flooded through the end of the period. A few warblers sprinkled in in late April, but the first ten days of May were very quiet--the spring convention produced few birds on May 6-7 and May 10 was a very dull day in Iowa City. A massive influx of passerines occurred on May 11 and the rest of the period was more normal. Purple Finches and Pine Siskins seemed to be more abundant in early May than in April.

## UNUSUAL SIGHTINGS

Perhaps the unusual weather was responsible for the number of rare birds seen this spring. Barrow's Goldeneye, a new bird for the state which was seen by many, has to be the best, but what about Red-throated Loon, Eurasian Wigeon, and Rock Wren for kickers. Of the other accidentals seen, White-faced Ibis, Smith's Longspur, and Great-tailed Grackle hardly deserve to be considered accidental and Whimbrel may shake that status too. Ten of 16 casual species were seen (all but two being represented by more than one sighting): Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, Surf Scoter, Prairie Falcon, Yellow Rail, King Rail, Buff-breasted Sandpiper, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, Bewick's Wren, and Lark Bunting. Among the exotic species, Ringed Turtle-Dove continues to be present in Davenport and a Ruddy Shelduck at Sweet M. on 12 May had no apparent reason for being there (FLM, RKM).

## SPECIES DATA (\* = documented)

- Red-throated Loon: 1 in winter plumage was studied at Cedar L. in Cedar Rapids from 3 to 16 Apr (\*CJB, \*TJS, \*RKM, \*FLM, \*PCP, \*THK). See separate note by Bendorf.
- Common Loon: 1 at Willow Sl. on 29 Mar (BLW) is the third earliest on record. Other early dates were 3 at Hendrickson M. on 1 Apr (BPr, MPr, HZ) and 1 at Montezuma on 3 Apr (DK). The last of three May reports was at Forney L. on 20 May (THK, et.al).
- Pied-billed Grebe: 165 s. of Waterloo on 14 Apr (FLM, RKM) is an amazing number.
- Horned Grebe: The earliest (2), peak (11), and latest (1) were all at Rathbun Res. on 24 Mar, 7 Apr, and 19 May, respectively (RLC).
- Red-necked Grebe: 1 (I heard that later observers saw two) was seen by many at Little Wall L. on 12 to 14 Apr (\*HZ, \*JJD, \*TJS, \*CJB, \*THK, \*FLM, \*RKM, \*BPr); 2 others, also in breeding plumage, were at Smith L., Kossuth Co., on 17 Apr (\*JC) and Elk L., Clay Co., on 21 May (\*MiB). The latter is the latest spring date on record.
- Eared Grebe: A winter-plumaged bird at Pleasant Valley, Scott Co., on 15 Mar (PCP, LL) is the earliest on record. The peak of W Iowa sightings was 4 at Willow Sl. on 16 Apr (BLW). Other locations were Cedar L. on 8 Apr (\*THK), Little Wall L. on 12 Apr (SD), and Ames on 1 May (SD).
- Western Grebe: 1 was early at Union Sl. on 9 Apr (Joe Fleskes fide JJD); two pair were at Rush L., Osceola Co., on 22 May (MiB fide JJD); and 1 was at Swan L., Dickinson Co., on 23 May (MiB fide JJD). Ross Silcock and I were at Rush L., the only known nesting location for this species, on the same day and did not see the birds. This suggests that there may be other pairs in the area that could be overlooked.
- American White Pelican: Pelicans arrived in mid-Apr--31 at Rathbun Res. on 14 Apr (RLC), 40 at Willow Sl. on 14 Apr (BLW), and 30 at Hendrickson M. on 15 Apr (SD). Large flocks were still in N Iowa in late May--100 at Spirit L. on 22 May (THK, WRS) and 100 at Ventura M. on 25 May (JLH). Small numbers were seen in E Iowa--4 at Coralville Res. on 26 Apr (THK), 64 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (TJS, JF), and 3 at Nashua on 13 May (FLM).
- Double-crested Cormorant: Flocks of 100-137 were reported from Willow Sl. (BLW), Ames (PM), Hendrickson M. (HZ), and Forney L. (TB, BPa, SK). Six birds on nests n. of Sabula on 25 May (PCP) appear to be the first definite evidence of nesting in the state since 1966.
- American Bittern: 1 or 2 were reported from seven sites.

- Least Bittern:** 1 flushed at Cone M. by Fred Thompson and seen by many on 28 Apr (THK) is the earliest on record. Birds were seen at four other locations, including 5 birds at Forney L. on 23 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>).
- Great Blue Heron:** 35 migrating in Mills Co. on 6 Apr were impressive (BLW). Several were seen on nests s. of Otter Creek M. on 14 May (TJS, THK).
- Great Egret:** The earliest was at Saylorville Res. on 31 Mar (Roger Sedlacek fide JJD). The peak was 10 at Anderson L. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD).
- Snowy Egret:** 3 sw. of Albion, Marshall Co., on 27 Apr (\*HZ, \*JJD) were seen by many and 1 remained until 6 May (BPr); singles were at Coralville Res. on 4 May (TJS, JF, THK), Mill Creek State Park, O'Brien Co., on 12 May (\*JEH), and w. of Little Storm L. on 23 May (THK, WRS).
- Little Blue Heron:** 2 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (RKM); 1 adult in Kossuth Co. on 13 May (RodS); 1 at Riverton A. on 21 May (Don Priebe fide RP); and 1 at Forney L. on 22 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, LP<sub>a</sub>).
- Cattle Egret:** Flocks of 1-20 were widespread across the state in 14 counties, beginning on 11 Apr in Dallas Co. (EuA, EIA) and extending to late May; 115 in the Missouri bottoms sw. of Percival, Fremont Co., on 16 May (THK, WRS) were unusual.
- Green-backed Heron:** 1 was early in Story Co. on 15 Apr (EMu).
- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** Flocks of 2-10 were reported from five areas; others went unreported (THK).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** 1 at Riverton A. on 27 Apr (FLM); 2 at Forney L. on 22 May (BP<sub>a</sub>, TB).
- White-faced Ibis:** Singles were well-documented at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (\*TJS) and North Twin L. on 1 May (\*LRM).
- Tundra Swan:** An early swan, probably a Tundra Swan, was photographed in Woodbury Co. on 13 Mar (\*JAH). Trumpeter Swans winter in SC South Dakota, so this species should be looked for in Iowa; voice would be the best means to distinguish between the two species at a distance. Impressive numbers of Tundra Swans were seen in NC Iowa this year--200 at Charles City on 29 Mar (Wayne Meyer fide JLH), 130 n. of Clear L. on 30 Mar (JLH, CH, RA), and 20 in Hancock Co. on 31 Mar (Jim Kubichek fide JLH). Two of the birds n. of Clear L. were collared at Mattamuskeet NWR, North Carolina, on 8 Feb 1984. Other locations were 2 in W Fremont Co. on 25 Mar (SD, JPSc) and 1 at Cone M. from 31 Mar to 3 Apr (RJH, GDW).
- Mute Swan:** 1 at Mud L., Clay Co., from 8 to 16 Mar (\*JJD) was unusually far west; other singles at L. Ahquabi on 6 May (RLC) and Amana L. on 23-25 May (CJB, LH) were unusually late. We still have little idea of where these birds are coming from and how many may be escapees.
- Greater White-fronted Goose:** 6 were in Dallas Co. on 25 Feb (MD) and stragglers were at Colo Ponds on 22 Apr (SD) and Union Sl. NWR on 16 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD).
- Snow Goose:** 105,000 were at Forney L. on 23 Mar (TB, BP<sub>a</sub>); it was impressive to see and hear many of these same birds rise in one flock as an immature Bald Eagle tried to pick a cripple off of the lake on 25 Mar (THK, m.ob.).
- Ross' Goose:** Up to 3 were at Forney L. on 23, 25 Mar (TB, \*THK, \*CJB, \*PCP) and 1 was at Willow Sl. on 24, 30 Mar (BLW, \*FLM, \*RKM).
- Canada Goose:** 15,000 were seen s. of Spencer on 19 Feb (MMB). Adults with young were seen at Muskrat Sl. on 14 May (THK). This species is now a common nester in N Iowa and is being introduced at more and more locations throughout the state.
- Wood Duck:** On 21 Apr I used a mirror and flashlight to identify a female trapped above the damper in our fireplace and after freeing the bird chased it around the house before catching and releasing it (THK).
- Green-winged Teal:** 2 nests were found at Union Sl. NWR (Joe Fleskes fide JJD).
- American Black Duck:** 2 at Red Rock Res. on 10 Mar (RLC); 1 at Anderson L. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD); 1 at Sweet M. on 14 May (FLM, RKM).



- Northern Pintail: 2 lingered at Muskrat Sl. on 26 May (TJS, CJB) and 1 at Waterloo on 30 May (FLM).
- Cinnamon Teal: 1 at Riverton on 17 Mar (\*EK) is the second earliest on record; others were at Big M. on 19 Apr (RKM, FLM) and 6 May (BPr, et al.), Rathbun Res. on 27 Apr (RLC), Riverton A. on 27 Apr (FLM, RLC), Union Sl. NWR on 18 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD), and New Albin on 19 May (DK). The latter two are record late dates.
- Northern Shoveler: 2 nests were found at Union Sl. NWR (Joe Fleskes fide JJD).
- Gadwall: 1 was still at Waterloo on 30 May (FLM).
- Eurasian Wigeon: 1 at Sweet M. was documented from 15 to 17 Apr (\*FLM, \*RKM, \*SPM, \*EMa, \*THK, \*TJS, \*PCP, \*CJB) for the third definite state record. As expected, it turned up as a spring migrant with American Wigeon and other puddle ducks.
- Canvasback: 10 were at Forney L. on 1 Mar (TB, BPa, SK); 1,000 were at the Keokuk Pool on 9 Mar (CJB).
- Greater Scaup: 6 were at IPL Ponds on 9 Mar (TB, BPa, SK) and 15 were there on 23 Mar (TB, BPa); 2-4 were at Coralville Res. on 16, 22 Mar (THK); 2 were s. of Iowa City on 1 Apr (TJS, CJB); and 3 were at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 10 May (\*PCP), a record late date. The increase in this species is undoubtedly due to observer awareness and increasing ability to identify birds, including females.
- Lesser Scaup: An albino was paired with a male at Union Sl. NWR on 6 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD).
- Oldsquaw: Singles were at Willow Sl. on 16 Apr (\*BLW), Union Sl. NWR on 18 Apr (Joe Fleskes fide JJD), and Goose L., Clinton Co., on 19 Apr (PCP, LL). The latter two tie previous late dates.
- Surf Scoter: A female was at Coralville Res. on 9 Apr (\*THK), a second earliest date.
- White-winged Scoter: None reported.
- Barrow's Goldeneye: The first definite state record was a male at Forney L. from 17 Mar to at least 6 Apr (\*MNo, \*DT, \*EIA, \*EuA, \*WRS, \*CJB, \*TJS, \*THK, \*BLW, \*PCP, \*RKM, \*FLM, \*BPr). See separate article by Silcock in Sep.
- Bufflehead: 2 were late at Swan L., Johnson Co., on 14 May (THK, TJS, WRS).
- Hooded Merganser: 1 was at Montezuma by 1 Mar (DK) and peaks were 28 at Rathbun Res. on 11 Mar (RLC), 15 at Coralville Res. on 16 Mar (THK), and 14 at Willow Sl. on 24 Mar (BLW). Females with broods of 12 and 13 were at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM) and New Albin on 19 May (DK).
- Common Merganser: 1 female lingered at Forney L. on 20 May (THK, WRS).
- Red-breasted Merganser: 2 were at Forney L. on 1 Mar (BLW); peaks of 300 and 225 occurred at Forney L. on 1 Apr (B. J. Rose fide TB) and Saylorville Res. on 7 Apr (SD); 2 females lingered at IPL Ponds on 16 May (THK, WRS).
- Osprey: Early arrivals were at DeSoto NWR on 24 Mar (SK fide TB) and Ingham L. on 25 Mar (\*HW); birds were seen at five locations in May with the latest at Hendrickson M. on 23 May (PM, BPr).
- Bald Eagle: 50 were at Forney L. on 1 Mar (TB, BPa, SK) and 25 at Coralville Res. on 24 Mar (THK). The last immature left Keokuk on 9 Apr (RCe); at more northerly locations, immatures were seen at Rathbun Res. (RLC) and Boone Co. (SD, JJD) on 14 Apr and New Albin on 19 May (DK).
- Northern Harrier: 7 were in Polk Co. on 7 Apr (SD); a female was at Hayden Prairie on 28 May (FLM).
- Sharp-shinned Hawk: 1-2 were reported from five locations from 7 Apr to 14 May.
- Cooper's Hawk: Singles were reported from 11 locations from 24 Mar to 26 May including 1 killed by hail in Plymouth Co. on 29 Apr (EJB) and an immature stunned by a window on 3 May at Sheldon (DCH).
- Northern Goshawk: 7 adults and 1 immature were reported in Mar including documentations from Red Rock Res. on 18 Mar (\*DT), Big M. on 24 Mar

- (\*FLM), and Big Creek L. on 25 Mar (\*BPr); an immature was reported from Mahaska Co. on 1 Apr (DK) and good details were provided for late adults in W Black Hawk Co. on 19 Apr (FLM) and Hickory Hill P. on 20 Apr (TJS).
- Red-shouldered Hawk:** March sightings were from the following counties: Story (MiB fide JJD), Jasper (TJS, CJB, THK), Polk (PCP, CIB), Poweshiek (DK), and Muscatine (PCP, LL); 1 was at Cardinal M. on 28 May and others were in Allamakee Co. (DK).
- Broad-winged Hawk:** 4 at L. Macbride on 7 Apr (TJS) are the second earliest record; the peak was 200 in Sioux Co. on 15 Apr (GJB); 1 or 2 remained at Dudgeon P. on 19 May (FLM, RKM), at White Pine Hollow on 20 May (C. and L. Blevins fide PCP), and at Yellow River Forest on 26 May (FLM, RKM).
- Swainson's Hawk:** 3 in Sioux Co., including 1 melanistic bird, on 28 Mar (GJB) are the second earliest on record. Other dark phase birds were seen in Cherokee Co. among a flock of 21 birds on 30 Apr (MMB) and in Woodbury Co. on 4 May (\*JAH). Other reports of 1-5 birds from the following counties illustrate the widespread occurrence of this species in W and N Iowa: Fremont, Mills, Pottawattamie, Harrison, Lyon, Osceola, Jasper, Story, Marshall, Hardin, and Bremer. A pair returned to nest in a woods in Osceola Co. even though 60 percent of the woods had been cut down.
- Red-tailed Hawk:** 42 were migrating in Cherokee Co. on 12 Mar (MMB). Krider's Hawks were reported from Mills Co. on 26 Mar (BLW) and Story Co. on 4 Apr (BPr, et al.) and Harlan's Hawk from Cayler Prairie on 10 May (DCH).
- American Kestrel:** On 4 and 9 Apr, 17 and 28 were migrating in central Iowa (BPr, MPr).
- Merlin:** Adults were seen on 7 Apr (\*FLM) and 21 Apr (\*RKM) at Sweet M. and on 15 Apr e. of Iowa City (\*THK).
- Peregrine Falcon:** Sightings from 7 locations included two late dates: EC Delaware Co. on 6 Apr (\*CJB); Sweet M. on 15 Apr (\*FLM, \*RKM) and 12 May (\*FLM); Willow Sl. on 24 Apr (\*BLW); Riverton A. on 27 Apr (\*RLC, \*FLM); Otter Creek M. on 29 Apr (\*BPr, \*MPr) and 14 May (\*THK); Hardin Co. on 8 May (\*MPr), and New Albin on 12 May (DK).
- Prairie Falcon:** 1 was reported from 2 miles e. of Lester, Lyon Co., on 9 Mar (\*DCH) and another from Forney L. on 25 Mar (\*PCP).
- Gray Partridge:** A pair were out of range in NE Iowa Co. on 12 May (CJB, TJS, THK).
- Wild Turkey:** 5 were at Blue Grass, Scott Co., on 1 May (PCP, LL).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Those commenting on this species indicated low numbers.
- Yellow Rail:** Singles were reported from UNI Prairie on 27 Apr (\*RY), Doolittle Prairie on 6 May (\*JM), Ventura M. on 9 May (\*JLH), and McIntosh Sl. on 14 May (\*JLH).
- King Rail:** 1 was identified by large size at Ventura M. on 11 May (\*JLH); 1 was heard well before daybreak at Otter Creek M. on 12 May (CJB, TJS, THK); and 1 tried to elude Ross Silcock by sneaking across the road behind him at Dewey's Pasture on 22 May, but was spotted and photographed (THK).

King Rail  
Dewey's Pasture  
22 May 1984  
Photo by T. H. Kent





- Virginia Rail: Few were seen this year, with a peak of 2 at Doolittle Prairie on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD); only 1 was found at Dewey's Pasture on 23 May in several hours of tramping (THK, WRS).
- Sora: 1 was early on 10 Apr at Anderson L. (JJD); 10 at Pickeral L. on 11 May (MMB) was the most reported.
- Common Moorhen: Seven locations were more than usual: Marshalltown on 1 May (MPr fide BPr); Mt Auburn, Benton Co., on 11 May (FLM, RKM); Otter Creek M. on 14 May (TJS, WRS, THK); Waterloo on 14 May (FLM, RKM); Forney L. from 15 May to 28 May (WRS, m.ob.); Ankeny Ponds on 15 May (DDM); and Colo Ponds on 23 May (HZ, BPr).
- Sandhill Crane: 1 was in Keokuk Co. on 5 Apr (DK); 1-3 were seen in Kossuth Co. on 15 Apr (RodS) and 21 Apr and 3 May (Joe Fleskes fide JJD), and 2 that tried to fly undetected over the IOU spring convention at L. Ahquabi on 6 May made too much noise and were spotted (\*LPa, BPa).
- Black-bellied Plover: The first, in basic plumage, was seen on 11 May n. of Waterloo (FLM). The peak of 14 at Ankeny Ponds on 23 May (MD) was one of several record late dates; others were 4 at Colo Ponds on 23 May (PM, BPr), 1 at Yager Sl. on 25 May (MMB), and another in basic plumage n. of Waterloo on 28 May (FLM).
- Lesser Golden-Plover: Many reports illustrated a normal migration pattern for this abundant species, but Hank Zaletel at Colo Ponds spotted the first (11 Apr), last (29 May), and peak number (707 on 14 May).
- Piping Plover: IPL Pond birds were present by 25 Apr (TB, BPa), peaked at 10 on 28 May (BLW), and had 3 nests on 25 May--but one was destroyed by 30 May (BLW). In central Iowa, 1 was at Otter Creek M. on 28-29 Apr (TJS, m.ob.), and 1-3 were at Hendrickson M. on 12, 14 May (SD, EMu).
- American Avocet: 7 at L. Manawa on 14 Apr (Phil Swanson fide TB) set an early record and 2 in SW Fremont Co. on 25 May (Carl Priebe fide BLW) tied the latest date. Others included 20 at Albion, Marshall Co., on 2 May (HZ, BPr), 1 at Sioux Center on 26 Apr (GJB), 2 at Riverton A. on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS), and 1 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (RKM).
- Greater Yellowlegs: 1 was early at IPL Ponds on 23 Mar (TB, BPa); a peak of 25 occurred at Sioux Center on 14 Apr (GJB); and late birds were identified in NW Cedar Co. on 14 May (THK, WRS, TJS) and at Sioux Center on 21 May (GJB).
- Lesser Yellowlegs: 2 were early on 25 Mar at Riverton A. (SD, JPSc); a peak of 100 occurred near Otter Creek M. on 14 Apr (THK, CJB, TJS); and late birds were identified in Fremont Co. on 28 May (BLW) and n. of Waterloo on 30 May (FLM).
- Solitary Sandpiper: 1 was late at Hendrickson M. on 23 May (PM).
- Willet: There were many more than usual from ten locations. The earliest were 6 at Hendrickson M. on 23 Apr (HZ); a peak of 64 were at IPL Ponds on 26 Apr (BLW); and the last 1 was at Cooper M. on 25 May (PM).
- Upland Sandpiper: 1-7 were reported from 10 counties, which represents only a sample of this uncommon but widespread species.
- Whimbrel: 1 was seen at Hendrickson M. on 12-13 May (\*SD, \*MMB) for the second year in a row at this location.
- Hudsonian Godwit: Reports from 10 locations were spread from 2 to 28 May with a peak of 67 at Colo Ponds on 11 May (HZ). SW Iowa, which usually has the highest counts, managed only 60 on 16 May in the Missouri bottoms of Fremont Co. (THK, WRS).
- Marbled Godwit: More than usual were seen with 6 at Colo Ponds on 14 Apr (BPr, m.ob.), 3 in SW Hamilton Co. on 23 Apr (Ted Eischeid fide JJD), 1 in NE Mills Co. on 24 Apr (\*BLW), 1 n. of Waterloo on 2 May (\*FLM), and 2 at Big M. on 2 May (BPr, et al.). The early migration of Marbled Godwits as compared to Hudsonians was quite striking this year.
- Ruddy Turnstone: 2 at Hendrickson M. on 14 May (EMu); 25 at Ankeny Ponds on 19 May (EuA, EIA); 6 at Willow Sl. on 20 May; and 8 in SW Fremont Co. on 24 May (THK, WRS).

**Sanderling:** 1-2 were seen at 4 locations and 23 were at Rathbun Res. on 19 May (RLC); the latest n. of Waterloo on 30 May was in basic plumage (FLM).

**Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1 seen well at Colo Ponds on 14 Apr (THK, CJB, TJS) is a second early date.

**Western Sandpiper:** None reported.

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** A peak of 100 were reported from SW Fremont Co. on 23 May (THK, WRS).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** 20 in Fremont Co. on 16 May (THK, WRS) probably under represent the commonness of this species in W Iowa. The E and C Iowa records are more typical--1 at Colo on 22 Apr (SD, GoB) and 1 there on 23 May (PM), 3 at Otter Creek M. on 29 Apr (PCP, GI), 3 in N Madison Co. on 23 May (MD), and 1 at Nahant M. on 24 May (PCP).

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** No migration peak was noted.

**Dunlin:** 150 were at Sweet M. on 12 May (FLM, et al.) and 100 were at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** The peak was 10 in Clay Co. on 23 May (THK, WRS).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** 2 were at Ankeny Ponds on 19 May (EuA, EIA) and 31 were flying over Forney L. on 20 May (B. J. Rose fide TB). Eldon Bryant writes that this species is more than casual in the fields of Plymouth Co.; the birds fly rapidly, close to the ground, and are difficult to approach.

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** Good details were provided on dowitcher sightings this year. All with details will be listed: 2 at McCausland on 1 May (PCP, MLP), 2-10 at Hendrickson M. on 10, 12, 15, 17 May (PM, SD), 1-7 at Colo Ponds on 11, 15 May (BPr, MPr, PM), 40 at Goose L., Clinton Co., on 15 May (PCP), and 1 in SW Fremont Co. on 24 May (THK).

**Long-billed Dowitcher:** 1 each at Riverton A. on 25 Mar (SD, JPSc) and Willow Sl. on 29 Mar (RKM) were identified by call (I presume they were in basic plumage); alternate plumage birds were 10 at Otter Creek M. on 28 Apr (TJS), 9 at Colo Ponds on 28 Apr (HZ), 1 at McCausland on 1 May (PCP), and 1 at Hendrickson M. on 10 May (PM).

**American Woodcock:** 1 was displaying while there was snow on the ground in Plymouth Co. from 27 Mar on (LF).

**Wilson's Phalarope:** The first were at Colo Ponds on 22 Apr (SD, GoB); the peak of 400 in SW Iowa on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS) must have been impressive; 2 were still at Marble Rock on 25 May (PK).

**Red-necked Phalarope:** 3 were at Yager Sl. on 22 May (THK, WRS), 1 at Hendrickson M. on 25 May (HZ), 2 in Fremont Co. on 28 May (BLW), and 1 at IPL Ponds on 30 May (BLW).

**Franklin's Gull:** The first were at L. Manawa on 23 Mar (TB); small numbers lingered into May with 3 at Amana L. on 25 May (CJB).

**Bonaparte's Gull:** The first were at Marshalltown on 3 Apr (MPr fide BPr); the peak number reported was 20 at Cedar L. on 7 Apr (SD, MD); and 10 immatures on the Mississippi River in Louisa Co. on 29 May (PCP) were the latest ever by two weeks.

**Ring-billed Gull:** Gulls moved through early this year and were mostly gone by mid-Apr; the peak was 1,000 at Saylorville Res. on 24 Mar (SD, MD, JJD). A few first summer birds were widely scattered through May.

**Caspian Tern:** A record early bird was at Coralville Res. on 21 Apr (THK, TJS). Small numbers occurred across the state throughout May except for 79 at Rathbun Res. on 19 May (RLC).

**Common Tern:** This difficult species was reported as follows: 1 at L. Macbride on 4 May (TJS, THK, JF); 1 n. of Waterloo on 8 May (RKM); 7 at Otter Creek M. on 14 May (TJS, THK, WRS); and 16 at Rathbun Res. on 19 May (RLC).

**Forster's Tern:** 50 were at Ventura M. on 19 May and 3 nests had been found by 28 May (JLH).

**Least Tern:** 1-2 were at IPL Ponds on 25, 28 May (TB, BLW) and near Blencoe, Monona Co., on 30 May (BLW). An E Iowa record will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Black Tern:** Large numbers were seen as represented by 200 at Anderson L. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD) and 100 at Nashua on 13 May (FLM).



- Ringed Turtle-Dove: Davenport observers continued to see this species throughout the period (fide PCP).
- Black-billed Cuckoo: Few were reported, the first at Ledges S.P. on 12 May (BPr, MPr, PH).
- Yellow-billed Cuckoo: Few were reported, the first at Ledges S.P. on 12 May (BPr, MPr, PH).
- Common Barn-Owl: 1 was seen by many at Red Rock Res. during the IOU meeting on 5 May (\*SD). In Boone Co. on 30 May an unbanded bird was captured in a barn with captive breeders (\*BE).
- Barred Owl: A fledgling was seen at Credit Is. on 28 Apr (PCP, MLP). One was seen near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. on 26 May (GJB).
- Long-eared Owl: 3 were at Big Creek L. on 25 Mar (BPr, MPr).
- Short-eared Owl: 1 in Black Hawk Co. on 12 Mar (DK); 1 at Larson M. on 23 Apr (PM); and 1 e. of Riverton A. on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS).
- Northern Saw-whet Owl: 1 at Big Creek L. on 24 Mar (HZ); 1 at Orange City on 28 Mar (GJB); and 1 at Willow Sl. on 30-31 Mar (RKM, FLM, m. ob.).
- Common Nighthawk: The earliest was at Keokuk on 2 May (RCe).
- Chuck-will's-widow: 3 at Waubonsie S.P. on 16 May (THK, WRS) were the only ones reported.
- Ruby-throated Hummingbird: 3 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPSa) tie the second earliest.
- Yellow-bellied Sapsucker: Several were still in Cherokee on 21 May (DBi).
- Pileated Woodpecker: 1 was at Grammar Grove P., Marshall Co., on 4 May (BPr, et al.).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher: Peak was 5 on 26 May in Mills Co. (BLW).
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher: Birds were recorded at Ames on 24, 27 and 28 May with peak of 7 (all heard) on 27 May (PM). Other reports were from Johnson Co. on 18 and 22 May (TJS) and Davenport on 21 May (PCP).
- Acadian Flycatcher: 1 was at Ames on 28 May (PM). Others were reported from 3 usual E Iowa haunts.
- Alder Flycatcher: 1 was early at Weise Sl. on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM); 3 birds were in Iowa City on 22 May (TJS). Reports from C Iowa included 23 May at Pine L. (BPr, et al.) and 2 in Marshall Co. on 25 May (BPr).
- Willow Flycatcher: The peak was 10 at Muskrat Sl. in Jones Co. on 26 May (TJS).
- Least Flycatcher: This species showed up on record early dates with singles at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPSa) and at Cone M. on 28 Apr (THK).
- Say's Phoebe: Birds were present last year, but none could be found in the usual location in Plymouth Co. this May; however, a severe hail storm in late April killed several birds in the area and could have affected the phoebes (EJB).
- Western Kingbird: 1 in Dallas Co. (EuA, EIA) and 2 in Fremont Co. (FLM, WRS) on 28 Apr were very early; 1 at Red Rock Res. on 5 May (TJS) was away from usual SW Iowa range.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher: 1 was in Wayne Co. on 4 May (Robert Jackson fide JJD). An adult was killed by a cat on 8 May at Milford in Dickinson Co. and another was seen by the landowner (DCH).
- Purple Martin: 1 on 6 Apr was the latest local first arrival date ever (DDM).
- Cliff Swallow: Arrived in Iowa City very early this year with 3 on 23 Apr (TJS) and 10 on 26 Apr (RJH).
- Barn Swallow: New third earliest records were from Cedar L. (SD, MD) and Cone M. (MCN) on 7 Apr.
- Red-breasted Nuthatch: The peak was 5 in Scott Co. on 11 May (PCP); 1 at Swaledale on 19 May (LG) was very late.
- Brown Creeper: The latest report was from White Pine Hollow on 20 May (L. and C. Blevins fide PCP).
- Rock Wren: The first report since 1958 for this accidental species came from NW Woodbury Co. on 21 May (\*THK, \*WRS). See separate article.
- Carolina Wren: 1 was in Hickory Hill P. Iowa City from 24 Apr to 11 May (TJS, THK). Another showed up in SW Iowa at Waubonsie S.P. on 22

- May (TB, BPa).
- Bewick's Wren:** Reports of this casual species included singles at Oakville, Louisa Co., on 2 May (PCP), and at Waubonsie S.P. on 24 May (\*TB, \*BPa). An additional record from 1983 was of a bird seen in late Jun and Jul near Wapello in Louisa Co. (\*BO).
- Winter Wren:** The peak was 7 at Iowa City on 20 Apr (TJS).
- Golden-crowned Kinglet:** 15 were in Appanoose Co. on 15 Apr (RLC); 1 was late on 2 May in Ames (PM).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** 1 on 29 Apr at Elkhart, Polk Co., was described as first ever local record (DDM). Nesting birds were reported from Waubonsie S.P. (TB, BPa, SK) and from Johnson Co. (TJS).
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 4 at Ames on 28 May (PM) were late.
- Swainson's Thrush:** First arrival was 27 Apr in Van Buren Co. (JPSa); 1 at Cardinal M. on 28 May (FLM) was late.
- Hermit Thrush:** The peak was 12 at Ames on 12 Apr (PM).
- Varied Thrush:** The bird wintering in Fairmont Cemetery, Davenport, stayed until 19 Apr (Bill LaFrenz fide PCP), a second latest date.
- Gray Catbird:** Singles arrived early in Story Co. on 29 Apr (EMu) and in Mills Co. on 30 Apr (BLW).
- Northern Mockingbird:** The only reports were from Muscatine and Cherokee Counties during May.
- Water Pipit:** 30 were noted at Doolittle Prairie on 8 Apr. (EMu); 5 were late on 11 May in Scott Co. (PCP).
- Northern Shrike:** 1 was reported from Cherokee on 13 Mar (MMB).
- Loggerhead Shrike:** 2 adults and a nest with 4 eggs were discovered on 5 May in Warren Co. (SD, MD).
- White-eyed Vireo:** Reports came from 4 locations: Scott Co. on 28 Apr (PCP, MLP), Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 12 May (JPSa), near Cone M. on 19 May (TJS, CJB), and Poweshiek Co. on 24 May (DK).
- Bell's Vireo:** 1 at Forney L. on 2 May (TB, BPa) ties the 2nd earliest record. Another at Ames on 5 May (\*PM) was also early.
- Solitary Vireo:** This species was found both coming and going at Ames (PM) with 1 early on 27 Apr, a peak of 10 on 10 May, and 1 on 28 May to tie the 2nd latest date.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1 at Ames on 28 Apr (SD) ties the 3rd earliest.
- Warbling Vireo:** 1 in Iowa City on 26 Apr (TJS) ties the 2nd earliest, and 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa) ties the 3rd early date.
- Philadelphia Vireo:** Reports were from C and EC Iowa from 12 May at Ames (SD, MD, GoB) to 26 May at Ames (PM).
- Red-eyed Vireo:** A single bird at Ames on 27 Apr (PM) is a 2nd early record date.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** A 2nd early record bird showed up at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 28 Apr (JPSa); 5 were at same location on 20 May (RLC).
- Tennessee Warbler:** 2 were early migrants at Ames on 28 Apr (PM).
- Orange-crowned Warbler:** 9 were still at Ames on 15 May (PM).
- Nashville Warbler:** 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPSa) were very early; 12 were still at Ames on 18 May (PM).
- Northern Parula:** 15 arrived at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. by 27 Apr (JPSa); SW Iowa reports were 2 in Mills Co. on 21 May and 1 in Fremont Co. on 28 May (BLW).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** 2 at Ames on 28 May (PM) were late for migrating birds.
- Magnolia Warbler:** The last report was from Ames on 28 May (PM).
- Cape May Warbler:** All reports were from 10 to 17 May with single birds in Johnson (TJS), Marshall (MPr), Bremer (RKM, FLM, RuH) and Hardin (BPr, MPr) counties.
- Yellow-rumped Warbler:** The first was at DeSoto NWR on 7 Apr (GJB). A bird of Audubon's race with a yellow throat was noted at DeSoto NWR on 26 Apr (TB, BPa, SK). In general, the peak migration was late and most arrived with the other warblers after 10 May (THK).
- Black-throated Green Warbler:** A 2nd early record date was set with 1 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 14 Apr (PCP, CBI). Other early reports were 4 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa) and 1 in Iowa City (TJS) on 27



Apr.

- Yellow-throated Warbler:** Reports included the usual spots in Van Buren and Boone Counties; 1 was also in Polk Co. on 22 May (MD). This species is regular along the Des Moines River valley.
- Pine Warbler:** Documented reports were 1 early bird in Marshall Co. on 28 Apr (\*BPr), 1 at L. Macbride on 4 May (\*THK, \*TJS), and a new record late date in Ames on 24 May (\*PM). Another bird was in Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 5 May (JPSa).
- Cerulean Warbler:** 1 at Oakville, Louisa Co., on 2 May (PCP) ties the 3rd early record date.
- Black-and-white Warbler:** The latest report was 1 at Ames on 26 May (PM).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** Noted at 6 locations in C and E Iowa from 4 to 15 May.
- Worm-eating Warbler:** Reports were from usual locales at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P., Amana Woods, and Wildcat Den S.P. Other records were 28 Apr in Ames (PM) and 20 May in Iowa City (TJS).
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** The peak was 6 at Ledges S.P. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD); other locations were Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa), Wildcat Den S.P. (PCP), Amana Woods (CJB), Hickory Hill, Warren Co (MCN), Dudgeon P. (FLM, RKM), and Nashua (FLM).
- Kentucky Warbler:** Noted at 5 locations after 12 May including 1 in Waubonsie S.P. on 22, 24 May (TB, BPa).
- Connecticut Warbler:** All reports were from E Iowa: 1 in Cedar Co. on 12 May (JPSa), 1-2 in Iowa City from 20 to 27 May (TJS, THK), and 1 in George Wyth S.P. on 27 May (FLM).
- Mourning Warbler:** 1 in Appanoose Co. on 13 May (RC) was the earliest this year. Others were 24 May at Waubonsie S.P. (BPa, TB), a peak of 4 on 27 May at George Wyth S.P. (FLM), and the last on 28 May with 2 at Ames (PM) and 2 in Marshall Co. (BPr, MPr).
- Hooded Warbler:** 1-2 were back in the Amana Woods after 12 May (CJB, FLM, RKM). An excellent color photo was taken of 1 of 2 males at Ames on 28 Apr (\*JAH). Two reports came from 18 May with 1 at Sweet M. (RKM) and 1 at Wildcat Den S.P. (CJB).
- Wilson's Warbler:** 2 were late migrants in Ames on 27 May (PM).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** 1 discovered during IOU convention in Warren Co. on 5 May (MCN) turned out to be a 2nd early record date. Reports from seven C and E Iowa locations ranged from 13 May at Hendrickson M. (BPr, MPr) to 26 May at Yellow River F. (FLM, RKM).
- Summer Tanager:** An immature bird showed up at a suet feeder in Storm Lake on 30 Apr and stayed for 4 days (\*MrsPT). Also in NW Iowa, there was an immature male near Spirit L. on 12 May (DCH). Another frequented the IOU convention headquarters at Lake Ahquabi S.P. on 4-5 May and was seen by many (JJD, HZ, SD). Other reports were 3 May at Davenport (Gary Inhelder fide PCP), 10 May in Appanoose Co. (RLC), 11 May in Black Hawk Co. (FLM), and up to 6 in Waubonsie S.P. on 24 May (TB, BPa).
- Blue Grosbeak:** None reported away from Fremont Co.
- Indigo Bunting:** The 2nd early record date of 28 Apr was tied twice: 2 females at Preparation Canyon (BPa, LPa) and 1 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. (JPSa).
- Rufous-sided Towhee:** A female of the spotted race banded during winter in Mills Co. was last seen 9 May (BLW).
- Chipping Sparrow:** The peak was 100 in Ames on 10 May (PM).
- Clay-colored Sparrow:** 7 were in with flock of 100 Chipping Sparrows in Ames on 10 May (PM); 1-3 were noted in Iowa City on 11 May (TJS, THK), and several appeared in Hamilton Co. on 12 May (SD, GoB, MD).
- Lark Sparrow:** Noted at 8 locations with 12 in SW Iowa on 28 Apr (FLM, WRS) and 8 at Big Sand Mound Preserve on 17 May (PCP, LL, DonM).
- Lark Bunting:** An extensive search turned up 1 male in SW Sioux Co. on 24 May (\*THK, \*WRS).
- Savannah Sparrow:** 2 reports tie for the new 2nd earliest record: 1 in NE Mills Co. from 17 to 20 Mar (\*BLW) and another at Rathbun Res. on 17 Mar (RLC).
- Henslow's Sparrow:** There were three reports for this rare species: 6

- males in Sperry Township, Clayton Co., on 20 May (\*DE), 2-3 singing birds in Warren Co. on 26 May (\*DE), and 1 heard at Hayden Prairie on 28 May (FLM).
- Le Conte's Sparrow:** 1-3 were at 9 scattered locations including late birds on 14 May at Sweet M. (FLM, RKM), and Muskrat Sl. (TJS, THK, WRS).
- Sharp-tailed Sparrow:** A delayed report from 29 May 1978 at Cardinal M. (\*FLM) ties the 2nd latest.
- Fox Sparrow:** First report was 15 Mar at Saylorville Res. (SD); 1 at Red Rock Res. on 6 May (THK, CJB) was a record late date by almost 2 weeks.
- Lincoln's Sparrow:** Record 2nd and 3rd early dates were 14 Apr in Mills Co. (BLW) and 20 Apr in Iowa City (TJS). The last report was 20 May in Fremont Co. (THK, WRS).
- White-throated Sparrow:** First migrant was 1 Apr in Ames (PM) and the last was 26 May at Muskrat Sl. (TJS, CJB).
- White-crowned Sparrow:** 1 at Larchwood on 28 Apr was the first at that feeder in 12 years (DCH). Another was late in Pottawattamie Co. on 20 May (THK, WRS).
- Harris' Sparrow:** Passed through Cherokee Co. in big numbers with 60 on 9 May (MMB) and 40 on 14 May (DBi).
- Dark-eyed Junco:** The last was in Ames on 6 May (PM).
- Lapland Longspur:** Reported in large numbers in C and EC Iowa with 1,000 in Grundy Co. on 7 March (BPr), 1,000 in Hardin Co. on 14 Mar (BPr), and 1,300 in Muscatine and Johnson counties on 18 Mar (THK). In Story Co., 500 were noted on 15 Apr and the last 1 was still there on 22 Apr (SD, GoB).
- Smith's Longspur:** This species might jump straight from accidental to regular on the Iowa list with the following records: 2-10 on 29-31 Mar in Montgomery and Page counties (\*RKM), 30-70 on 19 Apr in Johnson Co. in same location as last year (\*THK, \*TJS), 30-40 on 22 Apr in Story Co. (\*SD, \*GoB), and 30 very late birds in Johnson Co. on 7 May (\*TJS).
- Snow Bunting:** The 1 bird in Butler Co. on 24 Mar (FLM) probably didn't realize it was the 3rd latest on record.
- Eastern Meadowlark:** Single birds during May in Floyd (PK), Plymouth (THK, WRS), and Clay (MMB) counties were in NC and NW Iowa where Western Meadowlarks predominate.
- Yellow-headed Blackbird:** 1 showed up early in Clinton Co. on 19 Apr (PCP, LL); 10 were near Ankeny on 15 May (DDM); and 50 females were still migrating at Forney L. on 24 May (THK, WRS).
- Rusty Blackbird:** 1 female at Cone M. on 28 Apr (THK) and 2 at New Albin on 21 Apr (DK, JPSc) are the 2nd and 3rd latest.
- Brewer's Blackbird:** 10 at IPL Ponds on 11 Mar (\*BPp, LPa) were the first this year; 10-12 were at Cone M. on 31 Mar-1 Apr (THK, CJB, TJS), and the last were 30 at Willow Sl. on 14 Apr (BLW).
- Great-tailed Grackle:** This advancing species of the Southwest made a big leap eastward in Iowa--a pair was found at Finn Pond in Greene Co. on 17 May (\*MiB); a nest there contained four young on 31 May (JJD). A male at Riverton A. on 15 May (\*THK) was in same area that birds nested last year.
- Orchard Oriole:** 2 at Lacey-Keosauqua S.P. on 27 Apr (JPsa) are the 2nd earliest record. Reports came from 8 other scattered locations with a high of 10 in Cherokee Co. on 13-20 May (MMB).
- Northern Oriole:** 1 on 28 Apr in Keokuk (RCe) was early.
- Purple Finch:** Northwest Iowa observers were impressed by 30 in Kossuth Co. on 3 May (RodS) and 17 at Larchwood on 7 May (DCH); 3-5 were still in Sioux Co. on 11 May (GJB).
- Pine Siskin:** Small numbers lingered through May at various locations; 8 were still at Fairmont Cemetery in Davenport and had been seen carrying nesting materials in late Mar and early Apr (GI fide PCP).
- Evening Grosbeak:** 1 in Middle Amana on 12 May (Leroy Trumpold fide CJB) is a 2nd latest date; another was at Liscomb until 9 May (BPr). Other May sightings were a male in Davenport on 5 May (GI fide PCP) and 1 in Keokuk on 1 May (fide RCE).



## CONTRIBUTORS

(\* = documentation only )

Eloise Armstrong, Booneville; Eugene Armstrong, Booneville; Carl J. Bendorf, Iowa City; Dick Bierman, Cherokee; Gordon J. Brand, Orange City; Tanya Bray, Omaha NE; Marion M. Brewer, Cherokee; \*Gordon Brown, Ames; \*Mike Brown, Des Moines; Eldon J. Bryant, Akron; Robert Cecil, Keokuk; \*Joe Clark, Titonka; \*Ed Crocker, Storm Lake; Raymond L. Cummins, Centerville; James J. Dinsmore, Ames; Steve Dinsmore, Ames; Mark Dixon, Waukee; \*Bruce Ehresman, Boone; \*David Ewert, Des Moines; Larry Farmer, Westfield; Lucille Gaffney, Swaledale; James L. Hansen, Clear Lake; Douglas C. Harr, Larchwood; \*Jack A. Holloway III, Ames; Richard J. Hollis, Iowa City; \*James E. Huber, Cherokee; Thomas H. Kent, Iowa City; \*Erwin E. Klaas, Ames; Pearl Knoop, Marble Rock; Darwin Koenig, Montezuma; \*Elaine Main, Waverly; \*Stephen P. Main, Waverly; Paul Martsching, Ames; \*John Mayfield, Ames; \*Lannie R. Miller, Lake View; Francis L. Moore, Waterloo; D. Dean Mosman, Elkhart; Eric Munson, Ames; Robert K. Myers, Waterloo; Michael C. Newlon, Iowa City; \*Michael Nolan, Ames; \*Bill Ohde, Mediapolis; Babs and Loren Padelford, Bellevue NE; Peter C. Petersen, Davenport; Ruth Phipps, Shenandoah; Beth Proescholdt, Liscomb; \*Mark Proescholdt, Liscomb; James P. Sandrock, Iowa City; Rod Schmidt, Burt; \*W. Ross Silcock, Malvern; Thomas J. Staudt, Iowa City; \*Dennis Thompson, Des Moines; \*Mrs. Phil Thornton, Storm Lake; Gerald D. White, Muscatine; \*Harold White, Estherville; Barbara L. Wilson, Hastings; \*Ronan Young, Marquette; and Hank Zaletel, Colo.

## OTHER OBSERVERS

Ron Andrews (JLH); Corey Blevins (PCP); James Fuller (THK, TJS); Lanny Haldy (CJB); Chuck Hall (JLH); Phyllis Harris (BPr); Russell Hays (FLM); Gary Inhelder (PCP); Sandy Kovanda (TB); Larry Linder (PCP); Ray Linder (JLH); Don Moeller (PCP); Dan Perkins (FLM); Mary Lou Petersen (PCP); Joseph P. Schaufenbuel (SD, DK); and Ramona R. Sommerlot (BPr).

## COMMENT

More data than ever before was received from 38 contributors (who were aided in the field by 16 other observers) and 21 additional persons who contributed documentations of rare sightings. There are 'fide' reports from 21 additional observers. I might not have survived the season if it were not for the help of Carl Bendorf in compiling the data and writing the report. This was facilitated by our having similar home computers. The contributors were also of enormous help, as all had their reports to me by June 3.

We entered about 1,084 sightings (about 80 percent of that submitted) into the computer for sorting, and this produced 25 pages of data in small type. The 116 documentations, involving 40 species, exemplifies the seriousness of Iowa birders. We were glad to hear from new contributors Robert Cecil of Keokuk, Eric Munson of Ames, and Rod Schmidt of Burt (that's in Kossuth Co. near Union St. NWR).

The total number of species seen in 1983 (see last report) can now be corrected to 291. Say's Phoebe was seen in its usual location by Eldon Bryant and a Ferruginous Hawk record was accepted by the Records Committee (see report in this issue).

This report ends my fifth year as Field Reports Editor. Nick Halmi told me, as he turned the job over to me, that I would get tired of it. He was right if he meant that the task is large and must be done under pressure in a short period of time--I have ceased looking forward to doing the next report. He was wrong if he meant that it would get boring--each period brings interesting new information and enjoyable communications from friends all over Iowa. I have also enjoyed working with Regional Editors for American Birds Vernon Kleen and Bruce Peterjohn.

In spite of the enjoyment the task has brought me, I decided in March

that it would be best not to continue to the point that the job became overburdening and my efforts stereotyped. My feeling that there were plenty of others willing and capable of compiling the Field Reports was confirmed when our editor, Pete Petersen, was able to recruit the following to take over.

summer: Jim Dinsmore  
fall: Mike Newlon  
winter: Ross Silcock  
spring: Tom Kent

Looking back over five years of Field Reports, I see that the volume of information has increased, and the number of contributors listed has steadily risen from an average of 32 in 1980 to 45 in 1983. A number of species are being found with more regularity because observers know where and how to find them. The number of birds seen in Iowa by various individuals (as published in *Birding*) has risen rapidly and 10 species have been added to the state list.

Some of the more challenging aspects of the Field Reports for me have been the development of systems for handling and analyzing large amounts of data, learning how to provide camera-ready manuscript (thus eliminating proof-reading and the cost of type-setting), learning about the birding areas of Iowa, and trying to get to know as many of the contributors as possible. Perhaps the most distressing aspect of the job is making decisions about data to include, a process that will invariably displease someone, especially if there is an element of doubt concerning identification.

I thank all of you who have tolerated my skeptical manner and apologize for omissions based on my ignorance of the importance of some sightings. I would like to thank Pete Petersen for asking me to do the Field Reports, letting me do it the way I desired, and providing helpful suggestions. Jim Sandrock's weather analysis has made this information more complete and saved me a lot of effort. Donna Sandrock typed several reports. Carl Bendorf, Rick Hollis, and Tom Staudt helped compile data. My greatest thanks, however, must go to the contributors, who make the Field Reports from their field reports and who also make good friends.

I hope the new crew will bring new innovations to the Field Reports and a continued increase in contributors.

Mail summer reports by August 1 to: James J. Dinsmore, Department of Animal Ecology, Iowa State University, Ames, Iowa 50011.

## General Notes

**Red-Throated Loon at Cedar Lake** — On the evening of 2 April 1984, news of an exciting bird spread through the informal Iowa City grapevine. A Red-throated Loon was present on Cedar Lake in downtown Cedar Rapids. At 6 AM on 3 April I met Tom Staudt, Jim Sandrock, Joey Sandrock, and Jim Fuller (all of Iowa City) at the east shore of the lake. After scanning the various waterfowl which use the lake as a resting spot in migration we moved to the south shore to get a better look. A brisk wind buffeted the steady rain and viewing conditions were less than ideal. Finally, we spotted a winter plumage loon about 200 yards away in the center of the lake. We studied the bird as best we could through rain fogged telescopes and agreed that this was indeed a Red-throated Loon.

The bird would alternately sleep with its head tucked under a wing or dive for 10-15 seconds only to surface in a new location. After watching for about 30 minutes I made the following notes: size about the same as nearby Red-breasted Mergansers; back uniform brown-gray with a slight checked or mottled effect; back of neck and top of head a darker gray color extending down the side of face to just above the eye; throat, lower cheek front and sides of neck were all clean white; bill was slender and upturned. The bird also showed a small horizontal smudge about halfway down the side of the white neck. This mark was only on the left side.



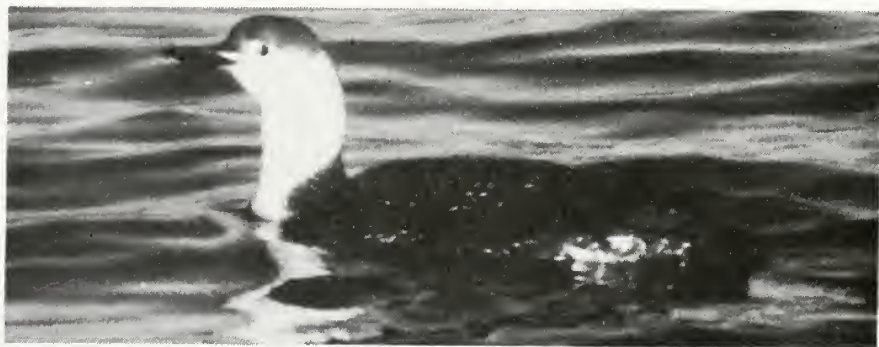
From looking at the field guides the night before, I knew that one of the key field marks would be the shape, size, and carriage of the bird's bill. Features such as size and shape can be very subjective. If I drive 20 miles to see a bird and know ahead of time that the bill is supposed to be a certain shape and the head should be uptilted, it is very hard to be objective when I actually see the bird. But try as I might, there was no way I could have described the bill as appearing straight. This upturned bill was accentuated by the constant uptilt of the head.

Over the next few days birders lined up by the carload to look for the loon. No one was disappointed.

I decided to try to get a look under better viewing conditions. As 6 April dawned calm and clear I loaded my camera and again got to Cedar Lake at 6 AM. As usual, the loon was sleeping out in the center of the lake. At that distance, the bird was a small image, even through the 20X scope. A photograph would only show a tiny speck, but I took several anyway. Finally the loon began to dive and move. I had read in Richard Pough's *Audubon Water Bird Guide* that "Like all loons, red-throats are curious and can often be brought close to shore by a fluttering handkerchief." This sounded like an old folk tale, but I looked about, and seeing only a few drowsy fishermen, decided to give it a try. I pulled out a bright red handkerchief and started to wave it vigorously. At that distance I wasn't sure the loon could even see me. After all, he didn't have a spotting scope. After about 30 seconds I noticed the loon had begun to swim generally in my direction (pure coincidence, I thought). Despite feeling a little silly and unconvinced that I could possibly be influencing the actions of a wild bird, I continued to wave.

Suddenly the loon turned in my direction and swam steadily. As I scrambled for my camera, the loon dove and disappeared. I held my breath and waited. I was astonished when the loon surfaced less than 25 yards away in the bright sunlight. I steadied my shaking hands, quickly focused, and snapped a picture. The bird dove and resurfaced to my right. As he dove again I caught on to his game and ran along the shore to the right to be in position when he came up. I had guessed correctly as the loon came up and peered at me from only 30 feet away! Any closer and either the bird would have been on land or I in the water. The loon seemed to tire of our little game, and after the next dive he surfaced quite a distance away.

The Red-throated Loon worked its way slowly out to the center of the lake by diving and resurfacing. He was again several hundred yards out. I watched him preen for several minutes and then decided to press my luck. I pulled out my red



RED-THROATED LOON

6 April 1984

Cedar Lake, Cedar Rapids

Linn County, Iowa

By Carl J. Bendorf

handkerchief and waved it over my head. Once again the loon turned almost immediately and swam toward me. Once again he started to dive and resurface closer to the shore. He didn't come in quite so close this time as he worked his way past me and back out to the lake center. This second performance by the curious bird convinced me that Richard Pough knew his birds; Red-throated Loons can indeed be attracted closer to shore. Do you suppose the red color of my flag had a special significance to the Red-throated Loon?

I described my experience to several other birders who then also tried to attract the loon. Unfortunately, no one else had any luck. I guess maybe you can fool a loon once, perhaps even twice. But you can't fool a loon three times.

My encounter on 6 April in the bright sunlight showed the color of the bird's back to be a shade darker than that of the head and back of neck. This is contrary to the apparent shadings I saw under the poor light during my first observation. Furthermore, the distinctive pattern of small white flecks on the gray back was easily seen. It is this star-like pattern on the back of the Red-throated Loon that gave rise to part of this species' scientific name: *Gavia* (family name) *stellata* (starred).

The Red-throated Loon was first identified on 31 March by Fred Thompson of Cedar Rapids. The last known sighting was by Jim Fuller on 20 April. If accepted by the IOU Records Committee, this occurrence would represent only the fourth confirmed record for Iowa, and the second in this century. Carl J. Bendorf, 825 7th Ave. Iowa City, IA. 52240

**Eurasian Wigeon at Sweet Marsh** — While observing a mixed group of ducks on the North side of Sweet Marsh near Tripoli, Bremer County, Iowa on April 15, 1984 we noticed an unusual wigeon with a small group of American Wigeons (*Anas americana*.) This duck had a rusty red head with a creamy buff patch on top of the head extending from the forehead through the crown. The color of the breast was also reddish but of a much lighter color than the head. The back and sides were a gray color with a short white horizontal slash about half-way up the side. The tail end was black with a white bar separating the black from the gray sides.

We identified the bird as a Eurasian Wigeon (*Anas penelope*) and immediately enlisted the aid of Stephen and Elaine Main of Waverly, who were also birding in the area, to help confirm that we were seeing a Eurasian Wigeon. We then started our rare bird calling and understand that quite a few birders got to see the duck during the next few days.

The new **Iowa Birds**, Dinsmore, et al lists two other records with details so this would be only the third record of this species with supporting details in Iowa, and possibly the first to be viewed by several independent observers over a period of time. Reference: Dinsmore, J. J., et al., 1984 **Iowa Birds**, pg 80. Francis L. Moore, 336 Fairfield St., Waterloo, IA 50703, Bob Myers, 1236 Sylvia Ave., Waterloo, IA 50701.

**Red-necked Grebes at Little Wall Lake** — On April 12, 1984, I decided to spend my lunch hour at Little Wall Lake in Hamilton County looking at water birds. The trip from Ames was in a driving rain and when I reached the west end of the lake on highway 69 it was still pouring. As I went to the north and eastern parts of the lake, the rain subsided and the water was calm. As I scanned the hundreds of ducks, my attention was immediately focused on a water bird that stood out from the others. Its dark, gray-brown body was the same size as the nearby ducks but its neck was red and it was considerably longer than the nearby ducks. The head was held high and erect. Since I did not have my field guide with me, I rushed to the car to get it. When I returned, the bird that had been 40 yards away was now over 80 yards away. I thought this rather strange but did not think anymore about it. A Horned Grebe obligingly swam within five yards of the bird and aided in its identification as a Red-necked Grebe. It was nearly 30% larger in size than the



nearby Horned Grebe. The bird was continuously diving and emerging with small fish in its yellow bill. I then returned to Ames and notified other birders. Hank Zaletel, 715 West, Colo, Iowa 50056.

**A footnote on the Red-necked Grebes** — On a blustery Saturday, April 14th, following information on Hank's great find, we had the above Red-necked Grebe in scope focus (at 40 power) when to our joy another Red-necked Grebe approached. The two raised their bills skyward, paused, and with a special greeting bowed several times to each other, and then continued swimming away in opposite directions. Four other Iowa birders were on hand to observe this happening. Forgetting the bitter wind and weather we did a celebration dance. A warm thanks to all birders helping others locate these extra special finds. Cal and Bernie Knight, 425 Lee St., Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

**The Say's Phoebe in Plymouth County** — The Say's Phoebes that had made the last known Iowa nesting near our home do not appear to be here now. I hadn't checked them early in the 1984 season but Drs. Tom Kent and Ross Silcock came late in May hoping to see them but with no success. I checked the site several times a day for several days and did not see or hear them. We had a blizzard with about seven inches of heavy wet snow April 29 and two days previous to that had heavy hail that killed quite a few birds around our farm site including one Cooper's Hawk. Between the hail and the blizzard they would have had a difficult time.

The Phoebes at this site had produced young successfully the past several years so I think there are others somewhere. They will be a challenge for alert birders. The best location will probably be abandoned farm buildings. They used to prefer wooden bridges far enough from farm buildings they weren't bothered much by House Sparrows and Rock Doves. They don't seem to be able to live with these pests. The old style wood bridges have mostly been replaced by steel or concrete culverts or by wood bridges whose timbers are heavily creosoted. I have never known them to use one of these. Maybe when the creosote is well weathered these bridges will be acceptable. I have found them nesting under cement bridges twice. Eldon J. Bryant, Route 1, Akron, IA. 51001

## Book Reviews

**A Field Guide to the Birds of the USSR** — V.E. Flint, R. L. Boehme, Y. V. Kostin and A. A. Kuyvetsov — Princeton University Press, Princeton, N.J. — 353 p., 48 color plates, 303 maps — 1984 — \$65.00.

This 1968 guide, now out of print in the Soviet Union, is finally available in English. This edition includes updated species information. It covers 728 species, a small number for a large country but one which lacks any tropical areas. The text includes fieldmarks, habits, range, distribution and similar species. Less than half the species have their distribution mapped. The plates include from ten to twenty species each, with females illustrated when they differ from the male. The detail is insufficient for the difficult identification problems such as many of the warblers.

The book certainly fills a void in the field guides to the world's birds. It will be helpful for adjacent areas, but European travelers will do better with any of the basic European guides. ed.

**Distribution of Oklahoma Birds** — D. Scott Wood and Gary D. Schnell — University of Oklahoma Press, Norman — 232 p., 38 O maps — 1984 — paperbound — \$14.95.

This is primarily a book of maps. The distribution of all 380 species recorded with some regularity for the state is mapped on maps 11x5½ cm. A bar chart is also included for abundance and period of occurrence. The only text is an eight page introduction, list of accidentals and index. The book covers records through June, 1983. It will be useful for students of midwestern birds and of some interest for anyone birding in Oklahoma. ed.

**Oklahoma Ornithology; An Annotated Bibliography** — Joseph A. Grzybowski and Gary D. Schnell — University of Oklahoma Press, Norman — 192 pp — 1984 — \$19.95.

Anyone who has worked on distributional studies of any bird species is aware of the value of an annotated bibliography. It provides author, date of publication, title and publisher as well as a brief description for all books and articles pertaining to the subject. In this case 1,500 titles covering major ornithological, regional and wildlife journals and reports, theses and dissertations and references from popular literature are included. It is a valuable reference item for Oklahoma and includes a key word index. ed.

**The Bee-Eaters** — C.H. Fry — Buteo Books, Vermillion, S.D. — 304 p., 8 color plates, 8 maps — 1984 — \$47.50.

This detailed monograph covers all 24 species of this colorful old world family. It illustrates 42 races and species. The color plates are done by the author and are supplemented by over 100 line drawings by John Busby. The book covers the very interesting geography of Bee-eater evolution as well as food, foraging behavior, relationships to apiculture, social life, meaning of plumages and social distinctions between the species. ed.

(Note — The book **Weather and Bird Behavior** by Norman Elins reviewed in the Dec. 1983 IBL is available in the U.S. from Buteo Books, Vermillion, S.D. ed.)

#### HELP WANTED!

Do you ever call the Iowa Birdline? If you do, you would have heard reports on the following birds so far in 1984: Eurasian Wigeon, Barrow's Goldeneye, Red-throated Loon, Red-necked Grebe, Snowy Egret, White-faced Ibis, Whimbrel, Rock Wren, Lark Bunting, and many more. The Iowa Birdline {(319)622-3353} is your connection to news of unusual sightings and migration movements in Iowa. On the air for over two years now, the Birdline is funded by private donations through the IOU. The message (usually about three minutes) is updated every Tuesday and gives locations and dates of unusual sightings for the previous week.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP!** The information you hear on the Birdline is only as good as the reports we receive from our listeners. We are totally dependent on your contributions. There are some weeks when plenty of people call in and listen, but very few reports left for us to put into the next week's message. If you enjoy calling in and hearing about what others have seen, why not return the favor by leaving a message when you see something unusual. Please don't think that your observations are not interesting just because you haven't been lucky enough to find a real rarity. We also like to mention common species that are out of season or present in unusual numbers. Some of the best reports can be of relatively common, but hard to find species that others may want to look for. If you find a bird that may not stay around for others to see, tell us anyway so other birders can be alerted to the possibility. One of the great joys of birding is being able to share your sightings with others. The Birdline is a great way to tell everybody about your discoveries.

We do greatly appreciate the reports we hear from our regular and occasional contributors. Thanks for your support.

We have just started using a new machine which will allow us to have a message up to 30 minutes long (of course, we probably won't do that to your phone bill). At the end of each weekly message you will hear a short beep tone. After the one, our machine will keep recording as long as you keep talking. So, please let us hear from you.

Thank You and Good Birding!

Rick Hollis & Carl Bendorf

Submitted by: Carl J. Bendorf, 825 7th Ave., Iowa City, IA. 52240